PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-NINTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2010–2011

COMPRISING PERIOD
8 November 2010—19 November 2010

HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

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§ *Members of the Government listed under more than one Department*

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8 November 2010

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 8 November 2010

TREASURY

Double Taxation Agreement (UK and Qatar)

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Mr David Gauke): A protocol to the double taxation agreement with Qatar was signed on 20 October 2010. The text of the protocol has been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and made available on HM Revenue and Customs' website. The text will be scheduled to a draft Order in Council and laid before the House of Commons in due course.

CABINET OFFICE

Departmental Business Plans

The Minister of State, Cabinet Office (Mr Oliver Letwin): Today, we are publishing business plans, publicly setting out how and when Government Departments will achieve the radical structural reforms needed to deliver the coalition's programme for Government.

Taken together, these plans will change the nature of Government. They represent a power shift, taking power away from Whitehall and putting it into the hands of people and communities; and an horizon shift, turning Government's attention towards the long-term decisions that will equip Britain for sustainable social success and sustainable economic growth.

The publication of these plans will bring about a fundamental change in how Departments are held to account for implementing policy commitments; replacing the old top-down systems of targets and central micromanagement with democratic accountability. Every month, Departments will publish a simple report on their progress towards meeting their commitments.

In addition, the second part of each business plan explains how Government will give people unprecedented access to the data they need—in a simple, easily accessible format—to scrutinise how we are using taxpayers' money and what progress we are making in improving society through our reforms.

These transparency sections of the plans are being published in draft to allow Parliament and the wider public to say whether each Department is publishing the most useful and robust information to help people hold the Department to account.

Select Committees will of course play a vital role in the task of holding the Government to account. Government Departments are contacting Select Committee chairmen to inform them of the new processes and to invite them to discuss the business plans in more detail.

Our reforms will give people the power to improve our country and our public services, through the mechanisms of democratic accountability, competition, choice and social action. By 2015, we will have made the structural changes set out in the programme for Government that are needed to secure the long-term prosperity and sustainability of our country.

The business plans are available on departmental websites and on the No.10 website at: http://www.number10.gov.uk/transparency.

Copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and are also available in the Vote Office and Printed Paper Office.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Fire and Rescue Service

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Robert Neill): On the evening of 4 November, following ongoing meetings, the Fire Brigades Union agreed to call off their 47 hour strike which was due to start at 10 am on Friday 5 and end at 9.00 am on 7 November. The proposed strike would have coincided with bonfire nights and Diwali—one of the busiest periods for fire and rescue services.

The two parties have agreed to refer their outstanding issues to the National Joint Council Resolution advisory panel, which comprises an independent chair and the joint secretaries of the National Joint Council for local authority fire and rescue services. The panel meets on 16 November. I very much hope that this process will result in agreement between the two parties without recourse to further dangerous and damaging strikes.

The two strikes witnessed in London on 23 October and 1 November, highlighted the need for all fire and rescue authorities to have in place robust business continuity plans which allow them to continue to provide a service to the public during a range of different types of disruption. I would encourage all fire and rescue authorities to satisfy themselves that they have such plans in place and to continue to strengthen these where necessary. I would like to thank all those who worked during these strikes, often in the face of serious provocation.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Beak Trimming (Laying Hens)

The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mr James Paice): I am today laying an amendment to The Mutilations (Permitted Procedures) (England) 2007 before Parliament, principally to extend the use of routine beak trimming of laying hens beyond 31 December 2010, while restricting the method used to the infra-red technique only. I know this is a significant issue for the House, as demonstrated by the large number of signatures for my right hon. Friend the Member for Worthing West (Peter Bottomley) (EDM 260). I therefore want to set out the background behind these amending regulations and explain this Government's approach to working towards a future ban on beak trimming.[1]

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[1] *[Official Report, 12 November 2010, Vol. 518, c. 4MC.]*

Currently, the UK makes use of a derogation in the EU Council Directive 99/74/EC on the welfare of laying hens, which allows for beak trimming of laying hens that are less than 10 days old if carried out by qualified staff. The procedure is only permitted to prevent feather pecking and cannibalism. The Mutilations (Permitted Procedures) (England) Regulations 2007 implements this derogation but only allows routine beak trimming to be carried out until 31 December 2010, after which beak trimming of laying hens would be banned. The ban was put in place when the laying hens directive was implemented in the UK in 2002, allowing eight years to develop a strategy to manage birds without the need to beak trim. At the same time, the previous Government established the Beak Trimming Action Group, comprising representatives from industry, welfare groups, DEFRA, and scientific and veterinary professions. The group's task was to devise an action plan which would work towards the ban on beak trimming by the end of 2010—looking at changes to management practices or selecting birds that are less prone to feather pecking. However, progress in the control of injurious pecking under commercial conditions in England has not been sufficient to implement a ban on beak trimming without causing a significant risk to animal welfare. In the meantime, a new infra-red technique was developed and is now used to beak trim birds commercially, as an alternative to hot blading. Currently, the infra-red technique is the method used on 95% of all beak trimmed laying hens.

The Farm Animal Welfare Council reviewed the evidence in 2007 and 2009. On both occasions it recommended that, until an alternative means of controlling injurious pecking in laying hens can be developed, the proposed ban on beak trimming should not be introduced, but should be deferred until it can be demonstrated reliably under commercial conditions that laying hens can be managed without beak trimming, without a greater risk to their welfare than that caused by beak trimming itself. The Farm Animal Welfare Council recommended that infra-red beak treatment should be the only method used routinely, as the evidence indicated that it does not induce chronic pain.

While the Government's long-term goal is to ban routine beak trimming, the Farm Animal Welfare Council's advice represents a sensible and pragmatic approach in the circumstances we have inherited and is in the interests of laying hen welfare. A ban on beak trimming for laying hens at this current time would result in significant welfare problems through outbreaks of feather pecking and cannibalism. The Government consider it is therefore right that the legislation needs to be amended to remove the impending ban on routine beak trimming, which would otherwise come into force on 1 January 2011.

However, I want to emphasise that the Government see the proposed removal of the ban as very much an interim solution. The previous Government's consultation on proposals to amend the legislation, did not propose any date to review the policy or any date for a future ban. This Government have taken heed of the strength of feeling on this issue and decided to adopt the Farm Animal Welfare Council's recommendation of setting a review date of 2015. We will assess the output of this work, with a view to banning routine beak trimming in 2016. We are committed to working with the Beak Trimming Action Group to find solutions to this very complex issue and to establish an action plan, which will include the following key milestones leading up to a full review of beak trimming policy in 2015:

November 2010—Industry to be asked to carry out study tours to those European countries, such as Austria, Finland, Sweden, Norway and Switzerland where beak trimming is not carried out.

January 2011—The Beak Trimming Action Group (comprising key representatives from industry, welfare groups, scientific and veterinary professions) will be reconvened and I will attend the first meeting which will establish an action plan to develop a strategy to manage birds without the need to beak trim.

Spring 2011—Industry to feedback the experience of other countries to a meeting of the Beak Trimming Action Group.

Summer 2011—Beak Trimming Action Group to begin to consider the outputs of a three year intervention study by Bristol university, funded by the Tubney trust, on strategies to reduce the need for beak trimming with a view to ending the practice by 2016.

1 January 2012—the EU-wide ban on the keeping of laying hens in conventional cages comes into force. As the impact of feather pecking is greatest in systems of management which do not house birds in cages, the risk to the welfare of laying hens from injurious pecking is likely to increase after this time.

2012-2014—Hold regular meetings of the Beak Trimming Action Group to gather data from producers on their experiences in managing flocks over two cycles in alternative systems, which will be fed into the review.

2015—Review established to assess the achievements on the elimination of beak trimming to date. The review will advise whether a ban on routine beak trimming of laying hens will achieve the maximum welfare outcome, with a view to reinstating the ban in 2016.

2016—Provisional date for the ban on routine beak trimming of laying hens.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

NATO Parliamentary Assembly (New UK Delegation)

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): The following will represent the United Kingdom at the NATO Parliamentary Assembly.

Harriet Baldwin MP
Lord Bates
Hugh Bayley MP
Peter Bottomley MP
Sir Menzies Campbell MP (Leader)
David Crausby MP
Caroline Dinenage MP
Nigel Dodds MP
Mike Gapes MP
Stephen Gilbert MP
Lord Jopling
Jason McCartney MP
Madeleine Moon MP
Mark Pritchard MP
Baroness Ramsay of Cartvale
John Robertson MP
Lord Sewel
Sir John Stanley MP

GOVERNMENT EQUALITIES OFFICE

Parliamentary Oral Question (Correction)

The Secretary of State for the Home Department and Minister for Women and Equalities (Mrs Theresa May): I regret to inform the House that there was an inaccuracy in an answer given to oral question 19942 on 28 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 458.

The response indicated that no recent representations had been received on the likely effect on women victims of domestic violence of reductions in funding to supporting people programme.

I can confirm that in fact Sandra Horley, CEO Refuge, sent a letter to the Minister for Equalities, my hon. Friend the Member for Hornsey and Wood Green (Lynne Featherstone) on 3 August regarding this matter, copied to Ministers in CLG and DWP. My hon. Friend met Sandra Horley on 12 October to discuss Refuge and tackling violence against women more generally.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 9 November 2010

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Debt Relief Orders

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Edward Davey): We are today announcing plans to amend the eligibility criteria relating to Debt Relief Orders (DROs) in order to allow access to those people who are currently excluded because they have certain pension rights that they cannot draw down for some years.

DROs were introduced in April 2009 following research that identified that there were people in long-term debt difficulties who had nothing to offer their creditors and who could not afford to make themselves bankrupt. Delivered in partnership with the professional debt advice sector, DROs provide low-cost easy access to debt relief for those overwhelmed by relatively low levels of unmanageable debt. They are designed to provide a fresh start for the most vulnerable people trapped in debt.

There are strict eligibility criteria of assets less than £300, debts no more than £15,000 and surplus income of less than £50 per month. Because a pension is treated as an asset, some people who would otherwise qualify find themselves unable to apply for a DRO because they have pension rights, even where the pension is of low value and not receivable for many years. The Insolvency Service issued a consultation asking whether changes should be made to make the system fairer for these people.

After considering the consultation responses, I propose to allow those with HMRC-approved pension schemes to have access to a DRO. This brings DROs into line with bankruptcy where debtors are able to keep their approved pensions, and will provide welcome assistance to many of the most vulnerable. I intend to lay a Statutory Instrument which, subject to parliamentary approval, would bring these changes into effect from April 2011.

I am placing copies of the summary of consultation responses in the Libraries of both Houses.

Exports to Iran

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Mark Prisk): Iran's nuclear activities continue to cause significant concern to the international community, and we are determined to stop it obtaining the material that it needs to pursue a range of proliferation-sensitive activities prohibited by UN Security Council Resolutions. The UK refuses all export licence applications where we believe there is an unacceptable risk that the goods would contribute to Iran's nuclear programme.

The UK respects Iran's right to a peaceful civilian nuclear programme as long as it meets its international obligations. But it has consistently failed to do so. Iran has continued to develop its nuclear programme in defiance of six United Nations Security Council resolutions, which call on Iran to fully comply with its international obligations, increase transparency with the IAEA and answer a range of outstanding questions about its overall intentions. The UK therefore welcomes the success of the EU in securing a strong EU Council decision in respect of new sanctions against Iran in July.

Until now, the UK has exercised discretion, on a case-by-case basis, to permit the export of goods listed in annex IV to Council Regulation (EU) 961/2010 of 25 October 2010 (previously annex II to Council Regulation (EC) 423/2007 of 19 April 2007).

However, these are dual-use goods which, by definition, may have utility to Iran's nuclear programme. The UK therefore strongly believes that it should go further than the new measures agreed by the EU. With immediate effect therefore, we will no longer issue any licences for the export of goods or technology listed in annex IV of Council Regulation (EU) 961/2010 or for the provision of brokering services or technical or financial assistance related to those goods and technology, apart from the most exceptional cases—such as supplies for humanitarian purposes—where there is manifestly no risk that the goods will be used in connection with Iran's nuclear programme. Furthermore we will not issue licences for investment in an Iranian person, entity or body engaged in the manufacture of goods listed in annex IV. Annex IV can be viewed at:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2010:281:0001:0077:EN:PDF

Extraordinary EU Competitiveness Council (10 November 2010)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Edward Davey): My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, Baroness Wilcox has today made the following statement:

> I will be attending the extraordinary EU Competitiveness Council on 10 November, where the Belgian presidency aim to achieve a unanimous political agreement to the approach they have put forward on the Commission proposal for an EU patent language regulation. The Belgian presidency has suggested amendments to the language proposal in an attempt to overcome the concerns of some member states.
>
> The Government intend to support the Commission proposal, including the presidency amendments if necessary.

Post Office Network

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Edward Davey): On 13 October the Government published the Postal Services Bill. This Bill will safeguard the universal postal service and secure a sustainable future for Royal Mail and the Post Office. We promised at that time that we would shortly bring forward a more detailed statement on the future of the post office network.

At the Second Reading of the Postal Services Bill, we announced £1.34 billion of Government funding for the Post Office network over the spending review period. Today we are publishing a statement on our plans to secure the future of the Post Office network.

The funding we have announced will enable the Post Office to invest in the network, reaching out to new customers by refurbishing its branches, extending its opening hours and reducing queues. This will make the Post Office more convenient and an even stronger retail partner for Royal Mail. Securing the Post Office network in the digital age also sets out:

> New opportunities for Post Office as the "Front Office for Government", including examples of new pilots the Post Office is conducting in conjunction with Government Departments and closer working with local authorities.
>
> An agreement between Post Office Ltd and Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) to give RBS—including Natwest—customers access to their current and business accounts through the Post Office, making almost 80% of current accounts accessible at post offices.
>
> Plans for potential future mutualisation of Post Office Ltd so that the interest of staff, sub-postmasters and even customers can be better aligned.

Copies of the document will be available in the Vote Office, the Printed Paper Office and will be deposited in the Libraries of both Houses. It will also be accessible online on the Department's website.

Higher Education Funding and Student Finance (Supplement to Statement)

The Minister for Universities and Science (Mr David Willetts): During the statement I made to the House on 3 November 2010, on higher education funding and student finance, and repeated by Baroness Wilcox in the other place, I regret that the description of the proposed maintenance package was incomplete.

The statement said:

> "There will also be increases in maintenance loans for students from families with incomes from £42,000 to £60,000".

The current maintenance support system is complicated. The maintenance grant is means-tested: when the maintenance grant was reintroduced in 2004 and 2006 it was in partial substitution for maintenance loan and hence the means-testing now involves a number of tapers by which maintenance grant is reduced with increasing family income. The result is that it is difficult for students and their families easily to calculate the support they are entitled to; and it adds to the administrative burden on the Student Loans Company in calculating means-tested entitlement.

It is in order to simplify the system that in the proposed maintenance arrangements for 2012-13 academic year and beyond, the multiple tapers for maintenance grants have been substituted by a single taper, and the reduction in total support (maintenance grant and maintenance loan taken together) as income increases is a more constant one.

As a result of the sum of these changes, almost all students receive an increase in their total financial support, but there is a very small proportion of students who will receive less maintenance loan than they would have if they entered under the old system. Students with a household income of around £49,000 to £53,000 will receive, on average, £120 less in maintenance loan. This equates to a 2.5% reduction for around 2.5% of students.

TREASURY

Improving Tax Policy (Finance Bill 2011)

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Mr David Gauke): At the June Budget the Government set out a commitment to build a new approach to tax policy making[1]—one founded on predictability, stability and simplicity—with consultation on policy design and scrutiny of draft legislation as the cornerstones. The Government will therefore publish draft clauses planned for Finance Bill 2011 on 9 December. At the same time, the Government will publish a formal response or update on the following consultations that it has undertaken over the summer/autumn:

> tax policy-making: a new approach;
>
> simplification of corporate capital gains for companies;
>
> pensions annuitisation;
>
> furnished holiday lettings; and
>
> a number of areas relating to HMRC's powers review.

Ahead of this, the Government will publish more details on corporate tax reform, including interim improvements to controlled foreign company legislation and reform of foreign branches planned for inclusion in the Finance Bill 2011. It will also publish the outcome of consultations that have been carried out on a number of anti-avoidance measures.

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[1] "Tax policy making: a new approach" HM Treasury and HMRC, June 2010

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Government Olympic Executive (Quarterly Report)

The Minister for Sport and the Olympics (Hugh Robertson): I am publishing today the Government Olympic Executive's quarterly report—"London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Quarterly Report November 2010". This report explains the latest budget position as at 30 September 2010, and outlines some of the many wider economic and social benefits to the UK.

The overall public sector funding package for the games will remain at £9.298 billion following the spending review announcement on 20 October 2010. The funding package will, however, be reconfigured from April 2011 to make provisions for operational requirements, reflecting the changing focus of the programme from construction to operational delivery. Also from April 2011, Government funding for the programme—excluding security which sits with the Home Office and other Government Departments—will be held by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

The London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games remain on time and within budget. The Olympic Delivery Authority's (ODA) anticipated final cost has reduced by £29 million to £7.232 billion as of 30 September 2010. The majority of contingency remains unreleased and savings have also been made in the quarter through project and procurement efficiencies. The ODA continues to make strong progress in preparing the venues and infrastructure in the Olympic park, with over 75% of the programme to the 2012 games now completed. The Olympic stadium is structurally complete with the cable net roof covered and all 14 lighting towers in place. The aquatics centre permanent structure and roof are in place, while the velodrome remains on target to be the first Olympic park sporting venue to be finished early in 2011. The structures of the handball and basketball arenas are now completed. More than three-quarters of the residential plots on the Olympic village are structurally finished, with the structure of the Chobham academy education campus also nearing completion. At the Lee Valley White Water Centre, the 10,000 square metre lake is full and water is flowing through the courses, with internal fit-out works of the two-storey facility building approaching completion.

The London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games are continuing to help businesses and people through the difficult economic times. Already, £5 billion worth of contracts have been awarded by the ODA, with 98% of the ODA's suppliers being British companies, and many more winning work in the supply chains of its contractors. As of September 2010, over 10,000 people were working on the Olympic park and village.

The Olympic Park Legacy Company has announced that in legacy the Olympic park will be called "Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park". It has set out new plans to help deliver family-focused neighbourhoods; to make the park a top visitor destination; to ensure the venues provide a lasting sporting legacy; to create commercial and job opportunities; and to help stitch together the area's communities through new road connections.

I would like to commend this report to the Members of both Houses and thank them for their continued interest in and support for the London 2012 games.

Copies of the quarterly report November 2010 are available online at: www.culture.gov.uk and will be deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

DEFENCE

Northern Grouping Initiative

The Secretary of State for Defence (Dr Liam Fox): The strategic defence and security review made it clear that alliances and partnerships would remain a fundamental part of this Government's approach to defence and security. We will therefore deepen our multilateral and bilateral defence relationships with key allies. Last week, I informed the House about our deepened relationship with France. As the next step, tomorrow I will have a meeting with the new Northern Grouping which includes Nordic and Baltic nations, as well Poland and Germany. The Northern Grouping will help us build a closer bilateral relationship with Norway, which is one of our key strategic partners. It will create a further framework that makes it easier for Sweden and Finland to have a closer relationship with NATO, and through our involvement as a nuclear power it will reassure the Baltic states about the value of article 5 of the North Atlantic treaty. In a world in which there is a multi-polar power base, we need more different levers to act in the interests of our national security.

CABINET OFFICE

Political and Constitutional Reform Committee's Report on Fixed-term Parliaments Bill (Government Response)

The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Mr Mark Harper): The Political and Constitutional Reform Committee published its report on the Fixed-term Parliaments Bill (HC 436) on 10 September 2010, immediately prior to Second Reading.

I am pleased to inform the House that the Government's response to the Committee's report has been laid before Parliament and published (Cm 7951). Copies are available in the Vote Office and Printed Paper Office.

The Government's response to the Committee will assist consideration of the details of the Bill in Committee on 16 November.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Prevent Review/New Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): I am pleased to announce today that the Government are formally reviewing the Prevent strand of Contest, the UK's counter-terrorism strategy.

That we need a preventative approach to terrorism is not in question: we have to deal with the causes of terrorism as well as its symptoms. But we want to avoid the mistakes of the previous Government. The new Prevent strategy will follow the principles of our counter-terrorism legislation. It will be proportionate to the specific challenge we face; it will only do what is necessary to achieve its specific aims; and it will be more effective. It will be separate from work to tackle wider forms of extremism and to promote integration, which is being led by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

The review will, among other things:

look at the purpose and scope of the Prevent strategy, its overlap and links with other areas of Government policy and its delivery at local level;

examine the role of institutions—such as prisons, higher and further education institutions, schools and mosques—in the delivery of Prevent;

consider the role of other Prevent delivery partners, including the police and other statutory bodies;

consider how activity on Prevent in the UK can be more joined up with work overseas;

examine monitoring and evaluation structures to ensure effectiveness and value-for-money; and;

make recommendations for a revised Prevent strategy.

I am also announcing today a period of public consultation to enable delivery partners, front-line service providers and all other interested parties to participate in the review of Prevent. Contributions can be submitted by e-mail (preventreview@homeoffice.x.gsi.gov.uk) or online at: (http://preventreview.homeoffice.gov.uk).

I am pleased to announce that Lord Carlile of Berriew QC, the current reviewer of terrorism legislation, will provide expert, independent oversight of the Prevent review. His role is essential in ensuring that the review takes into consideration all the relevant information and looks at all the options.

I am also pleased to announce that I intend to appoint Mr David Anderson QC as the new independent reviewer of terrorism legislation. Mr Anderson QC is a specialist in European Union and public law and human rights and has been a QC for over 10 years. He is a Recorder and visiting professor at King's College London. I expect him to take up this role early in the new year. Until then, I have extended the period of appointment of Lord Carlile of Berriew QC, as the current independent reviewer of terrorism legislation. During this period. Lord Carlile will also conduct a brief review of the arrests (and subsequent release) of six individuals under the Terrorism Act 2000 during the recent state visit to the United Kingdom by the Pope.

I am extremely grateful to Lord Carlile for his willingness to continue in his role, one he has performed with distinction.

TRANSPORT

High Speed 1

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr Philip Hammond): I am pleased to inform the House that the Government have approved the sale by London and Continental Railways Ltd of HS1 Ltd.

HS1 Ltd is the company that holds the concession to operate Britain's first high-speed railway, running from central London to the channel tunnel. It also includes the stations at St Pancras International, and the international stations at Stratford, Ebbsfleet and Ashford. It is used by Eurostar and the Kent domestic high-speed services. Deutsch Bahn have also recently announced their intention, by 2013, to start running international services over the line to Frankfurt and Amsterdam, via Brussels.

The successful bidder is a consortium comprising of "Borealis Infrastructure" and "Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan", each with a 50% stake. The acquisition value is just under £2.1 billion. The sale receipts will be paid on completion of the contract, which is expected to happen later this month. At that point, the consortium will become the owner of HS1 Ltd which has a 30-year concession to manage the High Speed 1 line and stations. Under the terms of the concession, HS1 has the rights to sell access to track and stations on a commercial basis while having to preserve the nature and capacity of the high-speed railway and to maintain and renew it to modem standards. Compliance with these terms is overseen by the Office of Rail Regulation.

The Secretary of State for Transport will continue to own the infrastructure of the railway and the freehold to the associated land. On expiry of the concession, the Government will once more take unencumbered ownership of the railway with the opportunity to let a further concession. In addition, the Government retain a 40% stake in Eurostar International Ltd and development rights on the major associated regeneration sites at Kings Cross and Stratford.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 10 November 2010

TREASURY

Economic and Financial Affairs Council (11 November 2010)

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Justine Greening): I plan to represent the Government at the Budget ECOFIN to be held on 11 November in Brussels.

Budget ECOFIN will prepare a conciliation meeting with the European Parliament on the EU budget for 2011, and handle the outcome of that conciliation meeting.

The Government remain committed to opposing the increases of around 6% in the 2011 EU budget, above 2010 levels, proposed by the Commission and the European Parliament. These are simply unacceptable at a time when Governments across the European Union are taking difficult decisions to reduce national deficits and ensure the sustainability of their public finances.

The Government have called for a freeze in the 2011 EU budget at 2010 levels. We voted for this when the Council adopted its position on the budget earlier this year, which proposed a 2.9% increase over 2010 levels. Six other member states also voted against Council's position. It was nevertheless adopted by a qualified majority.

Along with 12 other member states' Governments, the Government have made it clear that they cannot accept any increase beyond 2.9% in the 2011 EU budget compared to the 2010 budget. Those are the terms of agreement that this Government will pursue at Budget ECOFIN on 11 November.

DEFENCE

Call-Out Order to Support Operations in Afghanistan

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Nick Harvey): With the expiry of the call-out order made on 11 November 2009, a new order has been made under section 54 of the Reserve Forces Act 1996 to enable reservists to continue to be called out into service to support operations in Afghanistan. The new order is effective until 10 November 2011. Reservists continue to make a valuable contribution to operations in that country and some 1,280 reservists are currently called out and serving, of whom 530 are deployed in Afghanistan.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Localism Bill and Planning

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr Eric Pickles): On 6 July 2010, the coalition Government revoked all regional strategies under section 79(6) of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. This action was challenged in the High Court by developer CALA Homes, and the decision today concluded that section 79 powers could not be used to revoke all regional strategies in their entirety.

While respecting the court's decision this ruling changes very little. Later this month, the coalition Government will be introducing the localism Bill to Parliament, which will sweep away the last Government's controversial regional strategies. It is clear that top-down targets do not build homes—they have just led to the lowest peacetime house building rates since 1924, and have fuelled resentment in the planning process that has slowed everything down.

On 27 May 2010, the Government wrote to local planning authorities and to the Planning Inspectorate informing them of the coalition Government's intention rapidly to abolish regional strategies and setting out their expectation that the letter should be taken into account as a material planning consideration in any decisions they were currently taking. That advice still stands.

Today, the Government's chief planner has written to all local planning authorities and the Planning Inspectorate confirming that they should have regard to this material consideration in any decisions they are currently taking.

Moreover, to illustrate the clear policy direction of the coalition Government, the proposed clause of the localism Bill that will enact our commitment to abolish regional strategies is being placed in the Library. The Bill is expected to begin its passage through Parliament before Christmas.

We are determined to return decision-making powers in housing and planning to local authorities and the communities they serve, alongside powerful incentives so that people see the benefits of building. We will very shortly provide more details about one of the most important such incentives, the new homes bonus scheme, which will come into effect from April. This means that new homes delivered now will be rewarded under the scheme.

The coalition Government remain firmly resolved to scrap the last Government's imposition of confusing and bureaucratic red tape. This was a clear commitment made in the coalition agreement and in the general election manifestoes of both coalition parties. We intend to deliver on it.

JUSTICE

Parliamentary Written Question (Correction)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Jonathan Djanogly): An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Dudley North (Ian Austin) on 19 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 45-46W. The correct answer is as follows:

The number of court proceedings processed in the magistrates courts in England and Wales, England, and the West Midlands Local Criminal Justice Board area, from 2007 to 2009, is given in the table. Statistics are not available prior to 2007 on a comparable basis.

Table 1. Completed court proceedings in the magistrates courts, England and Wales, 2007-2009

Year	*Area*	*Total number of completed criminal proceedings (including breaches)*	*Total number of completed non-criminal proceedings*	*Total number of completed court proceedings*
2007	England and Wales	2,184,000	981,000	3,165,000
	England	2,051,000	923,000	2,974,000
	West Midlands	132,000	62,000	194,000
2008	England and Wales	2,031,000	977,000	3,008,000
	England	1,909,000	917,000	2,826,000
	West Midlands	121,000	63,400	184,000
2009	England and Wales	1,913,000	974,000	2,887,000
	England	1,797,000	910,000	2,708,000
	West Midlands	107,000	66,000	173,000

Source:

HM Courts Service Completed Proceedings database, collected through the HM Courts Service Performance Database ("OPT") and by manual data returns prior to April 2007.

Notes:

(1) All figures are given to the nearest thousand.

(2) Criminal proceedings include indictable/Triable-Either-Way, adult breach proceedings, adult summary motoring and non-motoring proceedings, and youth proceedings.

(3) Civil and family applications include care proceedings, Children Act 1989 section 8 Orders, emergency protection orders, licensing, other civil applications and others. Other includes means inquiries, representation orders and special jurisdiction.

(4) Prior to April 2007, data were collected through different data collection systems and therefore not directly comparable with those given in the table, based on HMCS Performance database (OPT). For this reason, the table shows the figures from 2007 only. In addition, the case management system used in the magistrates courts was updated between December 2005 and December 2008, from multiple legacy systems to Libra. Libra was rolled out in the West Midlands courts between March-October 2008.

(5) The above stated figures may not be directly compared with those published prior to the Judicial and Court Statistics 2008 bulletins, due to figures being derived from a different data source.

PRIME MINISTER

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and Assembly of Western European Union (UK Delegation)

The Prime Minister (Mr David Cameron): The United Kingdom delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and Assembly of Western European Union is as follows:

Robert Walter MP (Leader)

Full Representatives	*Substitute Members*
Brian Binley MP	Lord Anderson
Christopher Chope OBE MP	Joe Benton MP
James Clappison MP	Nicholas Boles MP
Ann Coffey MP	Lord Boswell of Aynho
Earl of Dundee	Michael Connarty MP
Baroness Eccles of Moulton	Geraint Davies MP
Paul Flynn MP	Jim Dobbin MP
Sam Gyimah MP	Jeffrey Donaldson MP
Michael Hancock CBE MP	Roger Gale MP
Jim Hood MP	Lord Glentoran CBE
Alan Meale MP	Oliver Heald MP
Baroness Emma Nicholson	Lord Inglewood
Sandra Osborne MP	Charles Kennedy MP
Claire Perry MP	Edward Leigh MP
Lord John Prescott	Ian Liddell-Grainger MP
Jim Sheridan MP	Yasmin Qureshi MP
Lord John Tomlinson	Amber Rudd MP
	Virendra Sharma MP

Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE (UK Delegation)

The Prime Minister (Mr David Cameron): The United Kingdom delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe is a follows:

Peter Bottomley MP (Leader)

Full Representatives	*Substitute Members*
Lord Bowness CBE	Nick de Bois MP
Tracey Crouch MP	Lord Glentoran CBE
Lord Dubs	Mr Dai Havard MP
Ben Gummer MP	Simon Reevell MP
Mark Hendrick MP	Nick Smith MP
Baroness Hilton QPM	Sir Robert Smith MP
Tony Lloyd MP	
Linda Riordan MP	
Angus Robertson MP	
Bob Stewart MP	
Rory Stewart MP	
Roger Williams MP	

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 11 November 2010

TREASURY

Double Taxation Convention (South Africa)

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Mr David Gauke): A protocol to the double taxation convention with South Africa was signed on 8 November 2010. After signature, the text of the protocol was deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and made available on HM Revenue and Customs' website. The text of the protocol will be scheduled to a draft Order in Council and laid before the House of Commons in due course.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Decent Homes Funding

The Minister for Housing and Local Government (Grant Shapps): Since coming to office the Government have made clear that our most urgent priority is to tackle the UK's record deficit in order to restore confidence in our economy and support the recovery. Throughout the spending review the Government have been guided by a commitment to fairness, protecting the most vulnerable people in our society and as far as possible protecting front-line services. In DCLG, that commitment includes continuing to fund the decent homes programme.

The spending review announced that the Government will invest over £2 billion of capital funding to help towards completing the decent homes programme. Of this, funding of £1.595 billion is available over the next four years to help make local authority social homes decent (with an additional £0.510 billion being provided for "gap" funding existing stock transfers). We will be working with the Homes and Communities Agency to ensure that decent homes funding is allocated where it is needed and in order to support the self-financing settlement.

The coalition Government wish to be fair in their approach to all, so we will not be as rigid about local structures as the last Government. This funding will help ensure that all councils can deliver a sustainable 30-year business plan under self-financing. It would therefore not be appropriate to restrict access to funding on the basis of current organisational structure or performance. We will therefore open the process of allocation of funding for the period 2011-15 to all local authorities who have a significant backlog of decent homes work. This Government consider that the two-star rating is not in itself a guarantee of ability to run a capital programme, or of good value for money; there will, therefore, be no requirement for a two-star housing inspection standard to be achieved to access funding. This is also unfair to tenants who have little control over the star rating of their landlord, but are currently made to suffer a potentially un-decent home as a result. In future it will be up to councils whether they want these inspections to go ahead reflecting the Government's commitment to reduce regulatory burdens on local authorities.

Today, we are jointly publishing with the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) our proposals for managing the allocation process in a consultation document and welcome the views of local authorities, arm's length management organisations and other interested parties on how we propose to gather information and make fair funding decisions. A copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010 (Ratification of Treaties)

The Minister for Europe (Mr David Lidington): The Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010 Commencement Order No.3 was made today 11 November, 2010. This brings into force part 2 of the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010 (CRaG Act) which deals with the ratification of treaties. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has overall responsibility for the conclusion of treaties, and leads on policy in this respect. Part 2 of the CRaG Act is the new basis for treaty scrutiny by Parliament, and replaces the former constitutional practice dating from 1924, known as "The Ponsonby Rule", with statutory provisions.

The effects of part 2 of the Act may be summarised as follows:

Section 20 provides that a treaty that is subject to ratification or its equivalent, is to be published and laid before Parliament for a period of 21 sitting days, during which both Houses have the opportunity to resolve that the treaty should not be ratified. If the 21 sitting days expire with no such resolution being passed by either House, the Government can proceed to ratify the treaty. It also defines the legal effect of a negative vote by either House.

Section 21 provides a mechanism for Parliament to request extensions to the 21 sitting day period, in blocks of up to 21 sitting days, at the discretion of the relevant Minister.

Section 22 provides an "alternative procedure" in exceptional cases where a Minister is of the opinion that it should be ratified without following the procedures in section 20.

Section 23 makes provision for classes of treaties that are to be dealt with differently because they are scrutinised by other means, notably—(i) under the European Parliamentary Elections Act 2002 or the European Union (Amendment) Act 2008, (ii) agreements and arrangements relating to taxation, or (iii) because scrutiny of them is not for the UK Parliament that is, treaties concluded by overseas territories, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man as authorised by HMG.

Section 24 requires that treaties laid before Parliament under section 20 shall be accompanied by an explanatory memorandum explaining the provisions of the treaty, the reasons for HMG seeking ratification of the treaty, and other relevant information.

Section 25 defines "treaty" and "ratification" for the purposes of the Act.

The Act changes the Ponsonby rule in several respects:

Part 2 gives legal effect to a vote against ratification in the Commons or Lords. It prevents the Government from moving immediately to ratify a treaty if either House votes against ratification.

If the Government nevertheless wish to proceed to ratification, the Minister must lay a statement giving reasons why. If the Commons voted against, a further 21 sitting day period must expire before ratification can take place. If the Commons vote against ratification during this subsequent 21 sitting days, the Government are prevented from ratifying the treaty. However, a statement can be laid more than once and therefore this process can continue. If the Lords vote against ratification, but the Commons do not, then a ministerial statement must be laid before Parliament explaining why the treaty should nevertheless be ratified.

The definition of "sitting days" is limited to days on which both Houses sit.

Part 2 also provides that the Minister can extend the sitting period by 21 sitting days or less (and votes against ratification will continue to have legal effect in this period).

Part 2 also requires the Minister, if the "alternative procedure" in clause 23 is being used in exceptional circumstances, to lay a statement giving reasons.[1]

Guidance on the ratification of treaties and part 2 of the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010 is published by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on its website (www.fco.gov.uk/treaty).

Advisory Group on Human Rights

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): In my statement on 15 September 2010, *Official Report*, columns 45-46WS following my speech on "Britain's Values in a Networked World", I announced that I would convene an Advisory Group on Human Rights to ensure that I have the best possible information about human rights challenges and benefit from outside advice on the conduct of our policy. I would now like to provide the House with further details.

Members of the group will be:

Kate Allen, *Director of Amnesty International UK*

Dr Chaloka Beyani, *LSE and UN Special Rapporteur on Internally Displaced People*

Dr Agnes Callamard, *Director of Article 19*

Mr Joel Edwards, *International Director, Micah Challenge*

Malcolm Evans OBE, *University of Bristol, Member of the United Nations Sub-committee on the Prevention of Torture*

Sapna Malik, *Partner, Leigh Day and Co. Solicitors*

Professor Susan Marks, *LSE*

Tim Otty QC, *Blackstone Chambers*

Tom Porteous, *Director of Human Rights Watch, London*

Sir Nigel Rodley, *University of Essex, Member of the UN Human Rights Committee*

Dame Barbara Stocking, *Chief Executive of Oxfam GB*

Professor Surya Subedi OBE, *University of Leeds and UN Special Rapporteur for Cambodia*

Sir Nicholas Young, *Chief Executive, the British Red Cross*

These are eminent individuals with a broad range of human rights and humanitarian experience. They are drawn from NGOs, the legal and academic communities and international bodies.

I will chair the group. I intend to hold two meetings a year. Ministers and officials will also chair additional meetings on specific issues agreed by the group. The first meeting will take place on 2 December 2010.

The members of the group will not be paid. FCO officials will provide the secretariat for the group from within existing resources.

As I made clear in my statement of 15 September, human rights are essential to and indivisible from the UK's foreign policy priorities. This Government intend to improve and strengthen our work to promote human rights internationally.

Iraq: Export Licence System

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Alistair Burt): The arms embargo in Iraq continues under United Nations Security Council resolution 1546 with exemptions for supplies of arms and related matériel required by the Government of Iraq (GoI) or the multinational force (MNF) to serve the purposes of the resolution.

Following a thorough review of its procedures for processing export licence applications to Iraq, Her Majesty's Government will consider as exempt from the embargo exports to the GoI, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq, diplomatic missions in Iraq, the US forces in Iraq, the NATO training mission in Iraq, the UK naval training mission training the Iraqi Navy and entities contracted or subcontracted to the GoI, US or UK forces or NATO. Export licence applications to these end users will not therefore require the approval of the GoI prior to approval of the application but may require extra information to be provided by the entity seeking the export licence. For exports serving the purposes of UNSCR 1546 to entities other than these, the exporter is required to provide a supporting document from the GoI to demonstrate that the proposed export is required and thus exempt from the embargo. All export licence applications for Iraq as elsewhere will be assessed on a case-by-case basis against the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria and will not issue a licence where to do so would be inconsistent with the criteria.

JUSTICE

Prisons and Probation Ombudsman for England and Wales

The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Kenneth Clarke): Stephen Shaw CBE stood down as prisons and probation ombudsman earlier this year to take up appointment as chief executive of the health professions adjudicator. Stephen was appointed as ombudsman in 1999.

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[1] *[Official Report, 13 December 2010, Vol. 520, c. 3MC.]*

The Ministry of Justice will shortly be advertising the vacancy and seeking applicants for the office of prisons and probation ombudsman. Although the post is not within the remit of the Commissioner for Public Appointments, the appointment will be made using a process which takes account of the commissioner's code of practice as best practice. I will inform the House once I have selected my preferred candidate for the office.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Patrick Finucane

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr Owen Paterson): The House will be aware that one of my predecessors as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, the right hon. Member for Torfaen (Paul Murphy), announced in the House on 23 September 2004 that he would take steps to establish a public inquiry into the death of Patrick Finucane in 1989. To date no such inquiry has been established.

I believe it is right that I should determine the way forward in this case and that consequently I should set out a clear decision-making process both to the House and to the Finucane family. I met the family on 8 November to listen to their views and I have written to them formally inviting their representations as to whether it is in the public interest that I should establish a public inquiry into the death of Patrick Finucane. I will consider those representations carefully and in detail, along with any other relevant representations that I receive over the next two months, before deciding this question.

In addition to considering representations on the case, I shall also need to take into account a broad range of other factors in determining what the public interest requires. The other factors that I will consider when deciding the public interest will include:

> The commitment given to this House in 2004;
>
> The conclusions of reviews and investigations into the case and the extent to which the case has caused, and is capable of causing, public concern;
>
> The experience of the other inquiries established after the Weston Park commitments;
>
> The delay that has occurred since the 2004 announcement and the potential length of any inquiry;
>
> Political developments that have taken place in Northern Ireland since 2004; and
>
> The potential cost of any inquiry and the current pressures on the UK Government's finances.

It is my intention to consider the public interest carefully and in detail at the end of the two-month period for representations and then to take a decision after such consideration as to whether or not to hold a public inquiry into the death of Patrick Finucane.

Written Ministerial Statements

Friday 12 November 2010

JUSTICE

Defendant Anonymity (Rape Cases)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Crispin Blunt): I have placed in the House Libraries copies of an independent assessment of research relevant to defendant anonymity in rape cases. This discharges an undertaking given in the summer.

The assessment has found insufficient reliable empirical evidence on which to base an informed decision on the value of providing anonymity to rape defendants. Evidence is lacking in a number of key areas, in particular, whether the inability to publicise a person's identity will prevent further witnesses to a known offence from coming forward, or further unknown offences by the same person from coming to light.

The coalition Government made it clear from the outset that they would proceed with defendant anonymity in rape cases only if the evidence justifying it was clear and sound, and in the absence of any such finding they have reached the conclusion that the proposal does not stand on its merits. It will not, therefore, be proceeded with further.

The report we are publishing today will be of wider interest to those concerned with criminal justice policy, the offence of rape, and violence against women and girls.

The Government's commitment to give anonymity to teachers accused by pupils, and take other measures to protect against false accusations, is separate. We will announce the outcome of that work, which is being led by the Department for Education, in due course.

WORK AND PENSIONS

National Employment Savings Trust

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Steve Webb): I am pleased to announce that, yesterday, the NEST Corporation awarded the second stage of the scheme administration contract for the NEST pension scheme to Tata Consultancy Services.

This significant milestone for workplace pension reform follows my statement on 27 October, about the making automatic enrolment work review, and the decisions that were taken as part of the spending review.

The NEST pension scheme will be available to all employers who wish to use it and will ensure that employees currently without access to a good quality workplace pension scheme have the opportunity to save for their retirement.

NEST will be self-financing in the long term through the charges paid by its members. It will therefore be delivered at nil overall cost to taxpayers. Until charge revenues are sufficient to meet the full costs of the scheme, it will be funded through a loan from the Department to cover its initial set-up and operational costs.

The contract runs until June 2020 and includes a possible extension for up to a further five years.

On 2 March, the House was informed that the contract to deliver scheme administration services for NEST was being awarded to Tata Consultancy Services Ltd in two stages.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 15 November 2010

TREASURY

Counter-Terrorist Asset-Freezing Regime

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban): The Government are committed to reporting quarterly on the operation of the UK's terrorist asset-freezing regime. We believe this is essential to ensure transparency and accountability of the regime. The Terrorist Asset-Freezing etc. Bill will enshrine in law the commitment to report quarterly to Parliament.

This report covers the period July to September 2010.[1]

Asset-freezing designations

In the quarter July to September 2010, the Treasury gave no new directions under the UK's domestic terrorist asset-freezing regime.

During this quarter, the EU added seven people to EC Regulation 881/2002, implementing the UN al-Qaeda and Taliban asset-freezing regime established under UNSCR 1267.

As of 30 September 2010, a total of 205 accounts containing just under £290,000[2] of suspected terrorist funds were frozen in the UK.

Reviews under the Terrorism Orders

The Treasury keeps domestic asset-freezing cases under review and completed 34 reviews in this quarter. From these 34 reviews 13 persons had their designations revoked.

The Terrorism Order 2009 contains a provision that designations made under the previous Terrorism Orders 2001 and 2006 expired on 31 August 2010 and that beyond 31 August freezes can only be made or renewed under the 2009 Order. All persons subject to domestic terrorist asset-freezes in the UK are now subject to the 2009 Order and benefit from the additional safeguards set out in that order compared with the previous orders.

Licensing

Maintaining an effective licensing system is important to ensure the overall proportionality and fairness of the asset-freezing regime, whether the individuals concerned are subject to an asset-freeze in accordance with a UN or EC listing, or domestic terrorism legislation. A licensing framework is put in place for each individual on a case-by-case basis. The key objective of the licensing system is to strike an appropriate balance between minimising the risk of diversion of funds to terrorism and meeting the human rights of affected individuals and their families. Licences contain appropriate controls to protect against the risk of the diversion of funds for terrorist finance.

Eighteen licences were issued this quarter in relation to 15 persons subject to an asset-freeze under the al-Qaeda and Taliban and domestic terrorism regimes.

Of these 18 licences, 11 revoked and replaced earlier licences. There were no variations to licences this quarter.

Proceedings

In the quarter July to September 2010, no proceedings were taken for breaches of the prohibitions of the Terrorism Orders or the al-Qaeda and Taliban (Asset-Freezing) Regulations.

Developments

The Terrorist Asset-Freezing etc. Bill: The Bill has completed its passage through the House of Lords and Second Reading in the House of Commons takes place on 15 November 2010.

Kadi *v.* Commission: Yassin Abdullah Kadi was listed under EC Regulation 881/2002. This regulation gives effect to the UN al-Qaeda and Taliban asset-freezing regime (UNSCR1267) in the EU. Mr Kadi challenged his listing under this regulation, arguing that it breached his fundamental rights under European law.

On 30 September the European General Court upheld Mr Kadi's challenge, annulling the EC regulation, in so far as it applied to Mr Kadi. The judgment will take effect on 10 December unless an appeal is lodged, in which case it will be stayed until the appeal has been decided.

The Kadi case concerns how EU member states implement their obligations to freeze the assets of sanctioned individuals under the UN al-Qaeda and Taliban regime. It does not concern the UK's domestic terrorist asset-freezing regime.

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[1] The detail that can be provided to the House on a quarterly basis is subject to the need to avoid the identification, directly or indirectly, of personal or operationally sensitive information.

[2] This figure reflects account balances at time of freezing and includes approximately $58,000 of suspected terrorist funds frozen in the UK. This has been converted using exchange rates as of 15/10/10. Future fluctuations in the exchange rate may impact on the contribution this sum makes to future totals of suspected terrorist funds frozen.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

London 2012 Community Sport Legacy

The Minister for Sport and the Olympics (Hugh Robertson): Following my statement of 20 July, *Official Report*, columns 8-9WS, on the coalition Government's priorities for sport, I am today announcing the community sport and mass participation Olympic legacy programme. Places People Play.

Places People Play will be delivered by Sport England, in partnership with the British Olympic Association (BOA), the British Paralympic Association (BPA) and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG.) It is a £135 million lottery funded initiative that will help build and upgrade sports facilities, protect playing fields and create sporting opportunities and challenges to encourage people up and down the country to get into sport—whether that be as a participant, leader or volunteer. This investment has been made available through the Government's lottery reforms that have resulted in more lottery money going to sport.

This programme will help to deliver Lord Coe's commitment to a lasting sports legacy to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games. Over the coming months Sport England will engage with the national governing bodies of sport and other key delivery partners to ensure that this commitment is realised.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Justice and Home Affairs (Post-Council Statement)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (James Brokenshire): My right hon. Friend the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, Kenny MacAskill the Scottish Secretary for Justice, and I attended the Justice and Home Affairs Council on 8 and 9 November in Brussels.

The Council began with Mixed Committee with Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland (non-EU Schengen States). The Commission provided an update on the progress of the second generation of the Schengen Information System II (SIS II). Since there were no major developments reported, it was suggested it may not be necessary to discuss SIS II at every Council as was the present standing commitment.

Next the Council noted progress towards an amending regulation on Frontex, the EU external borders agency. The new regulation is intended to increase the capacity of Frontex to strengthen the security and surveillance of the external Schengen borders, to develop relationships with third countries, and to better assist member states to return those with no right to remain in the EU. The UK is not directly affected as the amending regulation relates to those elements of the Schengen Acquis in which we do not participate. However, the Government support the extension of Frontex's remit to allow it to handle the personal data of those suspected of involvement in criminality at the border. We believe that being able to gather and share these data with other agencies, such as Europol, is vital to Frontex's contribution to the fight against human trafficking and smuggling. The Commission confirmed that it had dropped its opposition to Frontex handling personal data, but emphasised that the purpose should be limited, with necessary safeguards on data protection and the respect of human rights.

The Commission updated the Council on the draft regulation establishing a network of immigration liaison officers, with a view to reaching agreement between Council and Parliament before the end of the Belgian presidency. The amended regulation is intended to strengthen the EU's capacity to address illegal migration, and seeks to achieve greater benefit from Immigration Liaison Officer (ILO) networks for Frontex and the Commission. The UK supported the proposal's aim to strengthen partnership working on illegal immigration, but objected to the failure of the text to reflect the application of the UK and Irish opt-in protocol. The UK had a right to opt-in to measures pursuant to this part of the treaty and highlighted that a recital should be inserted to reflect the Government's decision to opt-in. The UK would not be able to support agreement until that amendment was made.

Next the Council discussed the sixth report from the Commission on the maintenance of visa requirements with third countries. Commissioner Malmstrom said progress was being made on the lack of Czech-Canada reciprocity. The Council then adopted an amendment to the Common Visa List to grant Albania and Bosnia-Herzegovina nationals access to the Schengen area without an EU visa, subject to a strengthened monitoring mechanism to allow for a rapid suspension in the event of a sudden inflow. Ministers from Albania and Bosnia-Herzegovina joined the Council for this item to welcome the decision. The UK will not be affected by changes to the regulation on the Common Visa as it builds on elements of the Schengen Acquis in which we do not participate.

Following Mixed Committee, the presidency gave a progress report on those dossiers being prioritised by the Belgian presidency under the Common European Asylum System noting that the Council was close to agreement on the Dublin and Eurodac regulations, although several delegations intervened to argue for the inclusion in the latter of law enforcement access. The UK acknowledged the presidency's determined efforts to reach agreement on these measures, but thought the EU's emphasis should be on practical co-operation. The UK highlighted that support for Greece was vital, that the Greek action plan was a real step forward, but there was an urgent need to act with strong leadership by the Commission. The UK stated that in the right circumstances we could send asylum caseworkers to support Greece, but there had to be a proper funding source at EU level. The UK highlighted that Dublin should be supported, not suspended. Rather than legislation that would increase the rights of all asylum seekers (whether or not their claims were valid), member states should provide faster protection for those in need, while protecting EU asylum systems from abuse.

Over lunch Interior Ministers discussed solidarity in the field of immigration and asylum and, at the request of Germany, the aviation security incident, involving cargo freight originating in Yemen. The UK updated on the current threat and its response to date. The UK also raised the importance of an EU PNR directive that included intra-EU flights.

The French Minister also informed the Council of the establishment of a "Mediterranean Office for Youth" in 2011; an intergovernmental initiative to improve mobility for young people through, for example, work experience opportunities.

After lunch Council conclusions on the creation and implementation of an EU policy cycle on organised crime (Project Harmony) were adopted. The mechanism should allow an intelligence-led approach to prioritising and tackling agreed threats from serious organised crime.

The presidency then sought a firm political steer on the way forward for implementation of the Prum Council decisions. The UK stated that it would not meet the August 2011 deadline for implementation. The UK acknowledged the offer of EU funding and suggested the deadline should be reconsidered. The UK could not support harmonisation of post-hit operational business rules. The presidency called on all member states to fulfil their commitments and make use of the support available.

Under AOB the Commission presented their initiative for a regulation on the marketing and use of explosives. The regulation proposes to limit access by the general public to specific chemicals that can be used to manufacture home-made explosives by restricting their use and possession above set concentration thresholds. There was no discussion.

The Hungarians called on the presidency and Commission to focus on the Eastern Partnership and on delivering a migration dialogue with the Russian Federation during discussions on the Prague process-building migration partnerships. The process is intended to implement strengthened practical and operational co-operation with main countries of transit and origin based on the global approach to migration—specifically the Eastern migration route, which includes Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia.

On the Justice day the Commission presented its proposal for a directive on attacks against IT systems which would replace the existing framework decision, which was part of a broader package of measures to combat cybercrime. The presidency looked forward to negotiations under the Hungarian presidency. The Government are considering whether the UK should opt in to this proposal.

There was an orientation debate on the European Investigation Order (EIO) which deals with cross-border requests for evidence in criminal proceedings. The UK supported the proposal but highlighted that some issues needed further debate at working-group level, in particular grounds of refusal. We needed to look further at cost, proportionality and dual criminality, in particular in relation to coercive matters. Proportionality must be a consideration in both the issuing and executing state. The presidency concluded that it would report on progress in December after further negotiations.

The presidency then provided an information point on the directive on the right to information in criminal proceedings. This is the second measure in the road map for strengthening criminal procedural rights and it aims to set common minimum standards and improve the rights of suspects and accused persons by ensuring that they receive information about their rights. The presidency stated that while progress has been made on this directive, it was essential to take account of the common law systems. The Commission reiterated this and encouraged member states to support the presidency in finding a solution that worked for all. The presidency will seek a general approach on this directive at the JHA Council on December 2-3.

The Commission presented the mid-term review of the Drugs Action Plan and stressed the seriousness of the drug abuse problem in Europe and the need for implementation of the plan. It accepted that it was not the right moment to expect higher investment in drug prevention and treatment programmes but it was also not the moment to cut investment. The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) presented its annual report which was published on the 10 November.

Over lunch Justice Ministers received a presentation from the presidency on whether EU action was required to enhance cross-border co-operation in border regions: this was intended to give guidance to the EU Prosecutors Forum at the end of November.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Pension Protection System (Administration Levies)

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Steve Webb): I am pleased to announce that for 2011-12 the rates for both the PPF administration levy and the general levy will remain at the same levels set for 2010-11.

Some of the administrative resource costs of the Pensions Regulator (tPR), the Pension Protection Fund (PPF), the Pensions Advisory Service (TPAS) and the Pensions Ombudsman (PO) are recovered through levies raised on pension schemes. The rates for these levies are set in regulations.

Levy rates in year are set to avoid frequent changes and do not directly reflect forecast future costs but also take into account accumulated deficits or surpluses in expected levy collection. In holding rates stable, the Government are seeking to avoid additional cost pressures on pension schemes. The rates have remained unchanged since 2008; this stability will be welcomed by levy payers, pension scheme trustees, members and sponsoring employers.

State Pension Credit Research Study

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Steve Webb): Starting from today, the Government are running a study exercise to look at ways of making better use of the data they hold about individuals, both from DWP administrative records and those of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs in order to help improve take-up of pension credit.

This study has been designed to meet the following objectives:

> Provide information about how people might feel about a system which makes more use of personal information that the Government already hold to pay people pension credit without the need for a claim.
>
> Evaluate ways of using the data available to the Government to improve take-up under the current pension credit regime.
>
> Deliver evidence about how in the long term a reshaping of the benefit or acquisition of better data might enable the Government to streamline radically the process for awarding pension credit.

This study will involve making awards of estimated pension credit to a randomly selected group of some 2,000 pensioners who, based on the personal information held, appear to be entitled to pension credit but not claiming it. These payments of benefit will be made for 12 weeks without those selected first needing to have made a claim. The first payments will be made in December and conclude in March 2011.

At the end of the study there will be a thorough evaluation, with initial findings expected from summer 2011.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 16 November 2010

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

"Skills for Sustainable Growth"

The Minister for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning (Mr John Hayes): Today I am publishing "Skills for Sustainable Growth"—the Government's new strategy for skills. The strategy takes full account of responses to the skills consultation which I announced on July 22.

Our ambition is to transform the nation's performance so that we have a world-class skills base that provides a consistent source of competitive advantage. As skills can also transform life chances, we must make sure that everyone can access skills opportunities to extend their wider benefits throughout society. Drawing on the responses to our consultation exercise, our goal is to build a skills system where learners are in the driving seat. We understand that in a modern economy, businesses and individuals are better than Government at deciding what skills they need.

The strategy is based on the coalition principles of fairness, shared responsibility and increasing freedom. Funding for skills will focus strongly on those with the greatest need. For others, there will be a shared responsibility between employers, citizens and Government for ensuring skill needs are met, and an expectation of co-funding with contributions that reflect the benefit each receives. To underpin the informed choices individuals and employers invest in, we will improve access to information about skills through a new all-age careers service. A reformed skills system, freed from unnecessary bureaucracy and regulation, will be better able to respond to their demands.

Apprenticeships will be at the heart of the system we will build, supported by a system of valued qualifications. There will be a new role for employers in shaping the skills system and particular support for small and medium-sized enterprises. We need employers to get involved, to shape the system and utilise the skills of their work force, so that they get the most from their investment. We will support them in implementing proposals they make for raising their game on skills.

As a principle of fairness, Government retain a responsibility to ensure that everyone has the basic skills they need to access employment and participate in society. In supporting learners we will offer every adult a lifelong learning account which provides access to the new FE student loans. To inform empowered learners by providing independent advice and guidance we will create the all-age new careers service because we know that good careers guidance is the basis for increasing social mobility. We will also develop a new model for adult and community learning—the budget for which will be protected—that will support the development of the big society and create progression routes to formal learning.

The strategy sets out a vision for a radical reform of the skills system, transforming and simplifying the skills landscape, and introducing new freedoms and flexibilities for providers. Above all we must abandon the culture of bureaucratic central planning and allow the energy, commitment and the resourcefulness of individuals and employers full rein.

Copies of "Skills for Sustainable Growth" will be deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

TREASURY

ECOFIN (17 November 2010)

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr George Osborne): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council will be held in Brussels on 17 November 2010. The following items are on the agenda:

Directive and Regulation on VAT treatment of insurance and financial services

ECOFIN will hold an initial discussion on proposals to modernise the VAT exemption for financial services, reflecting market developments over the last 30 years. In addition to a proposal to amend the VAT directive, the European Commission has proposed a detailed regulation that would ensure the law is applied consistently across the EU.

The Government are keen to promote economic growth and competitiveness through modernisation of the legislation, increasing certainty and reducing compliance costs for business, and ensuring fairness of treatment, while at the same time protecting UK revenues and limiting opportunities for avoidance.

The Government will continue to seek harmonised VAT exemption for financial derivatives and for investment management aimed at retail investors, as well as equal treatment for outsourcing across the whole sector. The Government will also reject any proposals to remove Government choice in respect of the option to tax.

Implementation of the 2009 budget

The Court of Auditors will present its annual report. The UK continues to press the case for value for money and greater accountability in the EU budget.

Follow-up to October European Council

ECOFIN will take note of the deliberations of the European Council, especially as regards the taskforce report on economic governance and levies and taxes on financial institutions.

The European Council endorsed the taskforce report which explicitly excludes the UK from any sanctions flowing from economic governance reforms. With regards to levies and taxes on financial institutions, the Government strongly support national levies on banks and other tax measures where appropriate to complement wider reforms aimed at reducing the probability and impact of banking failures.

Follow-up to the G20 Seoul Summit on 11-12 November

Ministers will hold an exchange of views on the main outcomes of the G20 summit, which is scheduled to discuss the following issues of interest to ECOFIN: the global economy and imbalances, the framework for growth, reform of the International Monetary Fund, financial regulation, and trade.

Financing of measures against climate change

ECOFIN will adopt conclusions on financing of measures against climate change. The Government support the conclusions, which will build credible action on the ground and strengthen the EU position at the UNFCCC climate negotiations in Cancun in December.

Pensions

The Council will adopt conclusions on a report on pensions. The Government welcome this report: it emphasises the importance of fiscal sustainability and extending working lives; and that the focus of EU activity in this area should be on exchanging country experiences and collecting comparable data and information.

EU statistics

The Council will adopt conclusions on the annual report on EU statistics, which reviews the progress made on statistical governance. It welcomes the support given by Eurostat to provide assistance to Greece in the area of statistics; the efforts of the Greek authorities to correct deficiencies in this area; the recommendations of the Van Rompuy taskforce to strengthen EU statistics; and progress made in the revision of the European system of accounts. The Government are content with the conclusions as drafted.

Baltic Sea area

The European Investment Bank will give a presentation on its contribution to the European strategy for the Baltic sea area, followed by an exchange of views by Council. The Government welcome the work of the EIB in the Baltic sea region, which aims to make the region environmentally sustainable, prosperous, accessible, attractive, safe and secure.

Representation of the Council at the G20 ministerial meetings

Ministers will discuss the presidency proposal that the EU should be represented by the Commission in the G20 finance ministerial meetings. The Government do not see a need to change the existing arrangements, whereby the EU presidency represents the EU and the Commission is an observer.

Meeting of the EU and EFTA Ministers of Finance and Economy

Ministers will meet their European free trade area counterparts and discuss topical issues of mutual interest, including financial regulation and intelligent fiscal consolidation.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Parliamentary Oral Question (Correction)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (Mr Edward Vaizey): My hon. Friend, the spokeswoman for the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in the House of Lords, Baroness Rawlings, has made the following written ministerial statement:

> The answers I provided to supplementary questions asked by the noble Lord, Lord Borrie and Baroness Jones of Whitchurch on Ofcom on 11 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 277 were incorrect.
>
> I would like to clarify that Ofcom remains in schedule 7 of the Public Bodies Bill and there are no plans to remove it. There are certain functions that the Government intend should remain outside the scope of future reviews and the powers in the Bill. These include the economic and network regulatory functions of bodies such as Ofcom, where the Government wish to ensure that regulatory stability is maintained.
>
> The Government have identified several of Ofcom's duties which should be amended or removed. The purpose of these changes is to return the policy setting role to the Secretary of State, to reduce unnecessary expense and to avoid duplication. These proposals do not include changes to Ofcom's economic and network regulatory functions. To facilitate these proposals Ofcom is named in schedules 4 and 5 of the Public Bodies Bill.

EDUCATION

Children's Workforce Development Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Education (Tim Loughton): The Department for Education is to cease funding work force development activity through the Children's Workforce Development Council, and will bring CWDC's ongoing core activities into the Department.

We have taken this decision as part of the arm's length body review; it reflects our commitment to channel as much resource as possible directly to the front line, and to ensure that central Government Departments are directly accountable. The Secretary of State has written to the chair to confirm this decision, to explain that the CWDC will cease to be a non-departmental public body and to say that he has asked departmental officials to work closely with CWDC on a transition plan for the transfer of functions and responsibilities, in the expectation that all such transfers will be completed by 2012. It will be important during the transition period to continue to engage employers in work force development.

In the Secretary of State's letter, he has taken the opportunity to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of CWDC's staff and the organisation's significant contribution in leading work force reform and improving life chances for children and young people since it was established in 2005.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Waste Water National Policy Statement

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman): The Planning Act 2008 provides for national policy statements (NPSs) that set out Government policy for particular types of development. It requires the draft NPSs to be publicised, consulted on, and laid in Parliament with the intention of enabling public and parliamentary debate to take place.

Public consultation on the waste water NPS for England started today, 16 November 2010, lasting for 14 weeks. At the same time I have laid it before Parliament for a period of scrutiny (the "relevant period") ending 17 May 2011.

The waste water NPS sets out our need for waste water infrastructure to protect public health and ensure the health of our water environment with the consequent benefits for our water supply and biodiversity. Although we intend to slow the growth in demand for new waste water infrastructure in England, through the use of sustainable drainage systems for example, we will need to continue investment in new waste water infrastructure. This will modernise outdated infrastructure, meet future demands from a growing population and the effects of climate change, and fulfil our EU obligations.

Two projects of potential national significance have been identified through this process: the new sewage treatment works at Deephams in north-east London and a sewerage collection and a transfer scheme along the Thames in London (the Thames tunnel). In line with the Planning Act 2008, the waste water national policy statement has been drafted on the basis that once the particular projects are designated, development consent will be determined by the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC). The Government announced in June 2010 their intention to amend the Planning Act 2008 and abolish the IPC and replace it with a major infrastructure planning unit (MIPU) within the Planning Inspectorate. Until such time as the Planning Act 2008 is amended, the IPC will continue as set out in that Act

Publication of the draft waste water NPS follows my statement of 7 September 2010 in which I indicated that development consent for the Thames tunnel should be dealt with under the regime for nationally significant infrastructure projects. I intend to bring the tunnel within the direct scope of the Planning Act 2008 by amending the thresholds in section 14(3), Part 3 of the Act 2008. I plan to consult on the draft order in early 2011. Thames Water also commenced in September a separate consultation on the site specific issues raised by the proposed development of the Thames tunnel in September 2010.

The waste water national planning statement (NPS) is available on the DEFRA website at the following link:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/waste-water/index.htm

HEALTH

Adult Social Care

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Paul Burstow): We are today publishing the Government's plans for adult social care services—"A Vision for Adult Social Care: Capable Communities and Active Citizens". Alongside the social care vision, the Department has launched a consultation on "Transparency in outcomes: a framework for adult social care"—a new strategic approach to quality and outcomes in adult social care.

The vision sets the context for the future development of social care services. It is the first step, followed by the Law Commission's work on reforming the legal framework next spring and the Commission on Funding of Care and Support next summer, towards the White Paper on care and support at the end of 2011. This will set out plans to establish a modern and financially sustainable framework for care and support, and the requirements for new legislation.

The vision sets out a new direction for adult social care, putting people, personalised services and outcomes centre stage and returning social care to its foundations of reciprocity and constructive action by individuals on behalf of the whole community. It sets a challenge for councils to provide a personal budget, preferably as a direct payment, for everyone who is eligible by April 2013. As councils devolve commissioning responsibility to individuals via personal budgets, we expect them to work with providers to broaden the market of care services, particularly small social enterprises, so that individuals can exercise real choice over care services. A consequence of personalisation is that people will increasingly take their own decisions about how to balance their new freedoms with a sensible approach to risk. The vision also calls for an increase in preventive activity in local communities, to keep people independent for longer and contribute to building the big society.

The vision includes examples of how councils, working in partnership with local organisations and people, can develop innovative, efficient services. It encourages people to look to themselves and their communities, not just the state, for solutions and in doing so to grow the big society. It alerts councils to their new leadership role in health improvement and health and well-being boards and the opportunities this offers.

Councils should use the solid basis for social care funding delivered by the recent spending review as a springboard to reform services. In recognition of the pressures on the social care system in a challenging local government settlement, the coalition Government have allocated an additional £2 billion by 2014-15 to support the delivery of social care. This means, with an ambitious programme of efficiency, that there is enough funding available both to protect people's access to services and deliver new approaches to improve quality and outcomes.

Plans for service reform were outlined in the social care consortium's partnership agreement, "Think Local, Act Personal" launched at the national children's and adult services conference on 4 November 2010. Led by the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services and the local government group on behalf of 21 social care organisations, it describes the next steps for councils to personalise services and provide more comprehensive information for people who need advice on care and support services. In addition to this, the consortium has also produced a number of best practice guides.

The key principles for adult social care described in the vision are:

> prevention: empowered people and strong communities will work together to maintain independence. Where the state is needed, it helps people to retain and regain their independence;
>
> personalisation: individuals not institutions take control of their care. Personal budgets, preferably as direct payments, are provided to all eligible people. Information about care and support is available for all local people, regardless of whether or not they fund their own care;
>
> partnership: care and support delivered in a partnership between individuals, communities, the voluntary sector, the NHS and councils, including wider support services, such as housing;
>
> plurality: the variety of people's needs is matched by diverse service provision, with a broad market of high-quality service providers;
>
> protection: there are sensible safeguards against the risk of abuse or neglect. Risk is no longer an excuse to limit people's freedom;

productivity: greater local accountability will drive improvements and innovation to deliver higher productivity and high-quality care and support services. A focus on publishing information about agreed quality outcomes will support transparency and accountability; and

people: we can draw on a work force who can provide care and support with skill, compassion and imagination, and who are given the freedom and support to do so. We need the whole work force, including care workers, nurses, occupational therapists, physiotherapists and social workers, alongside carers and the people who use services, to lead the changes set out in the vision.

Copies of the vision and the consultation document have been placed in the Library and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

Right to Request Social Enterprise Scheme

The Secretary of State for Health (Mr Andrew Lansley): I am announcing a third, and final, wave of 32 national health service organisations that will join the Department of Health's "Right to Request" social enterprise scheme.

The "Right to Request" gives all primary and community care staff employed by primary care trusts (PCTs) the right to put a request to their PCT board to set up a social enterprise to deliver health and social care services. Each of these organisations has received the approval of their PCT and strategic health authority (SHA) to pursue plans to set up a social enterprise. With appropriate support, these projects should go on to become successful and financially viable social enterprises that strengthen the delivery of tailored health and social care services in the NHS.

This scheme empowers staff to harness their entrepreneurial skills and exercise leadership to improve services for local communities through social enterprise.

The projects include a wide range of primary and community care for children, families and vulnerable people, such as dental, physiotherapy, bereavement and podiatry services. The proposals range from single service lines to whole provider arms.

These latest projects join the existing group of 29 "Right to Request" projects, bringing the total number participating in the scheme to 61. This represents a major milestone in the delivery of the White Paper commitment to create a vibrant social enterprise sector, and a substantial move towards the transformation of community services.

The growth of social enterprise is a priority for the Government. Social enterprises play a vital role in delivering innovative services and creating capable and confident communities. I am committed to enabling these organisations to have a significant role in the running of health and social care services across the country.

A list of the third wave of projects has been placed in the Library.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (Annual Report)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (James Brokenshire): My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary is today laying before Parliament the 2009-10 annual report of the appointed person under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002. The appointed person is an independent person who scrutinises the use of the search power introduced to support the measures in the Act to seize and forfeit criminal cash.

The report gives the appointed person's opinion as to the circumstances and manner in which the search powers conferred by the Act are being exercised. I am pleased that the appointed person, Andrew Clarke, has expressed satisfaction with the operation of the search power and has found that there is nothing to suggest that the procedures are not being followed in accordance with the Act.

From 1 April 2009 to the end of March 2010 over £63 million in cash was seized by law enforcement agencies in England, Wales and Northern Ireland under powers in the Act. The seizures are subject to further investigation, and the cash is subject to further judicially approved detention, before forfeiture in the magistrates court. These powers are a valuable tool in the fight against crime and the report shows that the way they are used has been, and will continue to be, closely monitored.

Copies of the report are available in the Vote Office.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 17 November 2010

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Parliamentary Written Question (Correction)

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Mark Prisk): I regret that my written parliamentary question response of 11 November, *Official Report*, column 478-79W, which referenced the future direction of the right to request time to train, gave an answer which was premature. The policy is still under active consideration until final decisions can be made.

We have consulted widely on the future of this legislation under our review of regulations introduced by the previous Government since the beginning of 2010. We are considering carefully the differing views expressed and will announce the way forward in due course.

Additionally, I would like to clarify that we are putting an end to the practice of unsolicited credit card cheques through a voluntary agreement with the credit card issuers rather than by legislative means.

EU Extraordinary Competitiveness Council (10 November 2010)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Edward Davey): My noble Friend the Minister for Innovation and Skills, Baroness Wilcox, has today made the following statement:

> An extraordinary EU Competitiveness Council took place in Brussels on 10 November 2010. This comprised a discussion on suggested amendments by the Belgian presidency to the Commission proposal for an EU patent language regulation in an attempt to overcome the concerns of some member states.
>
> I represented the UK and Andy Lebrecht, the UK's Deputy Permanent Representative to the EU, represented the UK when a Minister was not in attendance. A summary of the discussions follows.
>
> The UK and the majority of member states supported the presidency compromise amendments subject to the text being acceptable to all member states. The UK also emphasised commitment to an EU patent that works for business.
>
> The presidency proposed a final compromise following the first round of debate and an extended session including bilaterals. The compromise was acceptable to the UK and the majority of other member states; however Spain still considered the language regime proposed would be discriminatory, while Italy and Poland still expressed concerns over the length of the transitional period.
>
> Despite many concessions having been made in an attempt to achieve progress, the presidency concluded that it is not possible to achieve the required unanimity, but that they will now reflect on how to capitalise on the momentum created.

CABINET OFFICE

Employee-led Mutual Organisations

The Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General (Mr Francis Maude): Today, I am setting-out the steps the Government are taking to support workers to establish employee-led mutual organisations.

Every Government Department will put in place a "Right to Provide"—a right for public sector workers to take over the running of services.

These rights will not be uniform across Departments because each Department's requirements will be different. The rights will be as far reaching as possible, but we accept there will be areas where it will not be possible to mutualise, for example, because of security or operational stability concerns. It will be for Departments to set these areas out.

Cabinet Office will work with Departments to explore where public procurement processes allow for staff forming a mutual to be awarded a contract to continue providing services. Mutuals will have to negotiate contracts with the applicable Department or local commissioning body, which show how they will provide services while minimising administration and overheads.

In developing and implementing these new rights it is important that central Government lead by example. I will announce today that the Government will develop a right for civil servants directly employed by Departments to form mutuals. In the wider public sector workforce, it will be necessary for Government to work with local public sector bodies and employers.

The Government will not seek to dictate what is best for employees and for the users of services; rather the precise model of mutualisation should follow the service being provided; this could for example include joint ventures.

I am establishing a "challenge group" in Government to advise me and other ministerial colleagues about how we can best enable the success of this policy. This group will convene key policymakers and experts to drive the changes to policy and process necessary across Whitehall.

From spring 2011, the Government will invest over £10 million to fund a programme of support for some of the most promising and innovative mutuals so that they reach the point of investment readiness. This will build on the work of leading organisations in the sector to develop a network within which public sector employees, investors and public service commissioners can develop viable businesses.

The new suite of Rights to Provide are part of the Government's broader commitment to ensure that a much wider range of organisations can deliver excellent and efficient public services. The Government will publish a White Paper on reform early next year, setting out where we can go further to shift power away from central Government to citizens, communities and independent providers.

TREASURY

Economic and Financial Affairs Council (11 and 15 November 2010)

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Justine Greening): I represented the UK at Budget ECOFIN on 11 November, resuming on 15 November. The Council meeting took place alongside a meeting of the Council-European Parliament conciliation committee on the 2011 EU budget.

At a time of unprecedented economic and financial difficulty throughout the EU, the Government had made clear that a 6% increase in the 2011 EU budget above 2010 levels, called for by the Commission and the European Parliament, was unacceptable. In July the UK voted against Council's position calling for a 2.91% increase in the budget, with six other member states. This position was nevertheless adopted by a qualified majority. At the European Council on 29 October, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister led 12 other EU leaders in stating clearly that we could not accept any budget increase beyond the level agreed by the majority in Council.

The Government's aim at these Budget ECOFIN and conciliation committee meetings was to agree a budget for the EU in 2011 at the level of a 2.91% increase. The European Parliament said it was prepared in principle to accept this figure. The Government believe that agreement could have been reached on the 2011 budget in these terms, fulfilling the conciliation committee's mandate.

However, the European Parliament also demanded an outcome on a number of broader, strategic budgetary issues. These included text on an increased role for the European Parliament in discussions of the next financial framework and the EU's own resources, as well as a provision for flexibility to increase spending in the EU budget in future years.

The Government were not prepared to accept these conditions for agreement to the 2011 budget. At a time of widespread austerity measures, the Government believed that the over-riding priority for these meetings was to agree on next year's EU budget, and that it was inappropriate to condition agreement to progress on these longer-term political issues. A number of member states expressed similar concerns.

The European Parliament was not prepared to agree the 2011 budget in these circumstances, ending the negotiating session on 11 November and declaring the conciliation committee's deadline reached on 15 November. The committee therefore ended without agreeing a budget for next year. The Commission must now present a new draft budget for 2011 as a basis for further negotiations.

The Government strongly believe that there was a prospect for agreement on the 2011 budget at these meetings. Both Council and the European Parliament said they could have accepted a budget increase of 2.91% in 2011 compared to 2010 levels. However, the Government were simply not prepared to enter an agreement on the much wider demands from the European Parliament, on issues not immediately related to the 2011 budget. In these circumstances, the Government believe it was better for UK taxpayers not to reach agreement yesterday at all, rather than making a bad agreement which was counter to the interests of UK taxpayers.

The Government will continue to engage constructively in further negotiations aimed at securing agreement to a 2011 EU budget.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (Mr Edward Vaizey): The Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council will be held on 18-19 November in Brussels. Culture, audio-visual and sport issues will be taken on 18 November. The Deputy UK Permanent Representative, Andy Lebrecht, will be representing the UK for the culture and audio-visual section of the Council. The Minister for Sport and the Olympics, will represent the UK for the sport section of the Council.

The first item on the agenda will be a progress report from the presidency on the ongoing negotiations on the proposal for a European heritage label (EHL). The EHL is a proposal that builds on an informal process launched independently by a group of member states in 2007. The designation is intended to focus on the promotion of sites that "symbolise and strengthen European history and heritage", rather than conservation. Although the UK does not oppose the creation of the EHL in principle, the Government have reservations about the need for a new scheme that presents the potential for duplication of the UNESCO world heritage list. The UK has actively supported the voluntary nature of the scheme; opposed any additional cost burdens; and supported changes to make the scheme as light touch as possible. As this item will only be a progress report from the presidency, no formal agreement on the proposal will be reached at the Council meeting.

The presidency will seek the adoption of a decision on the selection of a city to host the European capital of culture event for 2015. Belgium and the Czech Republic are the EU member states eligible to nominate cities for 2015. Belgium has put forward the city of Mons for the title. The UK will support this proposal. The selection procedures for the Czech Republic are still ongoing and are due to be completed in early 2011.

The Council will be invited to adopt conclusions on the work plan for culture 2011-14. The conclusions take into account the final reports from the culture open method of co-ordination (OMC) groups and the Commission report on the implementation of the European agenda for culture, noting the member states support for continuing the OMC work. The work plan sets out six priority areas. These are: cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and accessible and inclusive culture; cultural and creative industries; skills and mobility; cultural heritage including mobility of collections; culture in external relations; and culture statistics. The implementation of the work plan will be achieved by four new OMC groups, presidency seminars and Commission activity. The UK will support the adoption of these conclusions.

The Council is expected to adopt Council conclusions on the role of culture in combating poverty and social exclusion. The conclusions address the need to consider cultural policies in the fight against poverty and social exclusion. The UK welcomed these conclusions especially as this year has been designated as the European year of combating poverty and social exclusion. The UK will support the adoption of these conclusions.

The Council will be invited to adopt conclusions on European film heritage, including the challenges of the digital era. The conclusions focus on the need to safeguard the cultural heritage of film in the light of evolving digital technologies. They invite member states to adapt existing legal deposit arrangements to cover film, to promote voluntary deposit and suitable arrangements for preservation, exhibition and use of films, including digitisation of film heritage and film archive education and training. The UK is broadly supportive of the aims of the conclusions and intends to support their adoption.

The Council is expected to adopt the Council conclusions on the opportunities and challenges for European cinema in the digital era. The conclusions aim to promote the use of digital technologies for film distribution, including for art-house and rural cinemas, to promote access to European works, cultural and linguistic diversity and social cohesion. The conclusions welcome Commission plans to provide funding through the MEDIA programme before the end of 2010 to support digitisation. The UK intends to support the adoption of these conclusions.

There will then be a discussion of a presidency paper on the cultural and audio-visual strands of the digital agenda. The paper asks questions on which cultural and audio-visual strands should be considered a priority in the digital agenda and how this can be reflected. The Deputy Permanent Representative will intervene to outline the two UK priorities. The first priority is the need to address the fragmented state of the European digital market to reduce burdens on business, to make it easier for consumers to get access to legitimate content and to reduce piracy. The UK's second overarching priority in respect of the cultural and audio-visual strands of the digital agenda is digital literacy and skills.

Under the sport section of the meeting, the Council is expected to adopt a resolution on the creation of high-level structured dialogue between representatives of the sport movement and EU public authorities. The new structured dialogue process will bring together the high-level sports movement and EU public authorities once per presidency, in the margins of the Council meeting. This could potentially be an important and influential group, with senior sport figures taking key seats. The UK will support the agreement of this resolution.

The Council is invited to adopt the Council conclusions on sport and social inclusion, demonstrating the value that it places on sport. The conclusions highlight the power of sport to break down social barriers and promote social inclusion. The conclusions invite the member states to take action at domestic level. The UK has a strong story to tell on sports' performance in these areas and will support the adoption of these conclusions.

There will then follow a policy debate on social inclusion in and through sport. The presidency has posed questions on specific projects running in member states aimed at promoting sport among socially disadvantaged groups and what priorities member states envisage for work at EU level in this field. The Minister for Sport and the Olympics will intervene to highlight examples of initiatives in the UK and to welcome the new working group on social inclusion in sport in which the UK is taking a leading role.

The Council is also invited to adopt Council conclusions on the role of the EU in the fight against doping. The conclusions intend to recognise officially the need for appropriate co-ordination on issues concerning the EU and member states' dealings with the World Anti-Doping Agency. The UK intends to support these conclusions.

Under any other business there will be an information point from the Luxembourg delegation on a draft extended partial agreement on the Council of Europe cultural routes programme. There will also be an information point from the Bulgarian delegation on the charity campaign for the recovery of the Triumph Theatre in Haiti. I do not foresee a need to intervene on either of these.

HEALTH

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (6-7 December 2010)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Anne Milton): The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council will meet on 6-7 December. The health and consumer affairs part of the Council will be taken on 7 December.

Legislative items on the main agenda, on which the presidency are likely to ask Ministers for political agreement are: a directive on prevention of the entry into the legal supply chain of medicinal products which are falsified in relation to their identity, history or source and a regulation on provision of food information to consumers. The UK supports the adoption of both of these proposals.

The presidency are also expected to propose the adoption of Council conclusions on the following:

investing in Europe's health work force of tomorrow: scope for innovation and collaboration;

a co-ordinated action for stimulating, measuring and valorising pharmaceutical innovation;

innovative approaches for chronic illnesses in public health and health care systems;

supply of radioisotopes; and

lessons to be learned from the HINI pandemic – health security in the European Union.

The UK supports the adoption of these Council conclusions.

Under any other business, information will be provided from the presidency on a recast of the three directives on medical devices, on the fourth conference of the parties at the WHO framework convention on tobacco control, which took place on 15-20 November 2010, and on a number of conferences that took place under the Belgian presidency. In addition, we expect the Commission to provide information to the Council on the proposals for a directive and a regulation on information to the general public on medicinal products subject to medical prescription.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 18 November 2010

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Planning Reform

The Minister of State, Department for Communities and Local Government (Greg Clark): I am announcing today reforms to the community infrastructure levy. The levy came into force in April 2010 and gives local authorities in England and Wales the option to raise funds from developers undertaking new building projects in their area.

The money can be used to fund a wide range of infrastructure that is needed as a result of development. This includes: transport schemes, flood defences, schools, hospitals and other health and social care facilities, parks, green spaces and leisure centres.

The Government have decided that this tariff-based approach provides the best framework to fund new infrastructure to unlock land for growth. The community infrastructure levy is fairer, faster, more certain and more transparent than the use of the existing system of planning obligations to collect standardised contributions. Levy rates will be set in consultation with local communities and developers and will provide developers with much more certainty "up front" about how much money they will be expected to contribute.

Under the system of planning obligations only 6% of all planning permissions brought any contribution to the cost of supporting infrastructure, when even small developments can create a need for new services. The levy creates a fairer system for collecting tariff contributions, with all but the smallest building projects making a contribution towards additional infrastructure that is needed as a result of their development.

However, currently too little of the benefits of development go to those directly affected, and our ambition is to correct that. Therefore, the existing powers to set a community infrastructure levy will be reformed so communities have more control over how it works, and developers benefit from a more flexible system.

New neighbourhood funds

The Government will require charging authorities to allocate a meaningful proportion of levy revenues raised in each neighbourhood back to that neighbourhood. This will ensure that where a neighbourhood bears the brunt of a new development, it receives sufficient money to help it manage those impacts. It complements the introduction of other powerful new incentives for local authorities that will ensure that local areas benefit from development they welcome.

Local authorities will need to work closely with neighbourhoods to decide what infrastructure they require, and balance neighbourhood funding with wider infrastructure funding that supports growth. They will retain the ability to use the levy income to address the cumulative impact on infrastructure that may occur further away from the development.

More flexibility for local authorities over levy rates

The Government will include provisions in the localism Bill to limit the binding nature of the examiners' reports on levy rates. Currently, an examiner scrutinises a council's levy rates, and all changes that they request are binding, including the rates set for specific areas or types of development.

Examiners will now only be able to ensure councils do not set unreasonable charges. Councils will be required to correct charges that examiners consider to be unreasonable, but they will have more discretion on how this is done—for example, they could depart from the detail of the examiner's recommendations on the mix of charges to be applied to different classes of development or the rates to be applied in different parts of their area.

Most affordable housing and charity development will continue to be exempt from the levy.

Additional flexibilities for levy charging authorities

The Government want councils to have more control over the working of the levy. Changes to the existing regulations will therefore include:

> Freeing up payment arrangements—local authorities will be able to decide their own levy payment deadlines and whether to offer the option of paying by instalments;
>
> Removing the £50,000 minimum threshold so authorities can accept a payment in kind for any level of contribution;
>
> Minor amendments to secondary legislation to close potential loopholes and improve how the levy system works, for example, reducing burdens by scaling back information requirements on the "notice of chargeable development".

Planning obligations

The Government are confirming that there will be no significant change to the arrangements relating to planning obligations set out in the existing community infrastructure levy regulations. Planning obligations will continue to be used to mitigate the direct impacts of specific developments and to fund affordable housing; however, their use to collect standardised tariff-style contributions will be phased out in favour of the levy by 2014.

Transitional arrangements, timing and next steps

Local authorities that have decided to introduce a community infrastructure levy charge on the basis of the current legislation can now do so.

Local authorities who take steps now to adopt a charging schedule will not need to return to an earlier stage of the process when these changes take effect. And local authorities that have already adopted the levy before the reforms come into effect will be able to take advantage of the new flexibilities without having to review their charging schedules.

The Government aim to publish draft regulations for debate in Parliament in the new year. It would bring the changes into effect on 6 April 2011.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

General Affairs and Foreign Affairs Councils

The Minister for Europe (Mr David Lidington): The Foreign Affairs Council and General Affairs Council will meet in Brussels on 22 November. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary will attend the Foreign Affairs Council. I will attend the General Affairs Council.

General Affairs Council (GAC)

Follow-up to the September European Council and preparations for the December Council

The presidency will review the outcomes of the October European Council and set out the main themes of the December European Council, which takes place in Brussels on 16 and 17 December. No agenda for the December Council has yet been issued, but we expect that economic governance, the EU budget, enlargement and strategic partnerships will be covered briefly in this discussion.

Use of videoconferencing at Council

Ministers will be presented with proposals for the use of videoconferencing as part of contingency arrangements for EU ministerial meetings at times of crisis. This initiative builds on experiences with the volcanic dust cloud from Iceland which disrupted air travel within Europe earlier this year.

European Commission's Work Programme for 2011

The Commission's work programme for 2011 outlines the Commission's priorities for next year and lists initiatives it plans to launch. It has been put on the agenda as an information point only—we do not expect a discussion. An explanatory memorandum on the work programme will be laid before the House shortly. Detailed responses to policy initiatives will be given as legislative proposals are put forward.

Disaster relief

The Commissioner for International Co-operation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response (Kristalina Georgieva) will set out the Commission's proposals for building EU disaster response capacity. The proposals will focus on the response to disasters inside and outside the EU; consider both civil protection and humanitarian assistance; and seek cost-effectiveness through use of common assets. The UK supports multilateral humanitarian response, but is not in favour of elaborate new structures.

Foreign Affairs Council (FAC)

EU's Strategic Partners

Baroness Ashton will set out her latest thinking on enhancing the EU's strategic relationships. This follows the September European Council mandate, which required her to present a set of proposals in December. The UK wants more focused engagement with EU strategic partners—for example, our position for the India and Russia summits are set out below.

Burma

Ministers will discuss recent developments in Burma including the flawed elections of 7 November and the release of Aung San Suu Kyi on 13 November.

Baroness Ashton released a statement on 13 November following the release of Aung San Suu Kyi which can be found at:

http:/www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/117708.pdf

This followed an earlier declaration of 7 November by Baroness Ashton, on behalf of the EU, on the elections in Burma which can be found at:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/117549.pdf

The UK was closely involved in the drafting the declaration of 7 November which reflects our serious concern about the nature of the elections. The Prime Minister made a statement about the release of Aung San Suu Kyi to the House of Commons on 15 November.

Summit Preparations (Africa, India, Russia and OSCE)

Baroness Ashton will seek Ministers' views on preparations for summits.

EU-Africa

The discussion on the EU-Africa summit of 29 and 30 November is an opportunity to use the EU to help deliver some of the UK's objectives in Africa. The overarching themes of the summit are investment, economic growth and job creation. We expect the summit's communiqué to contain a renewed political commitment to regional integration and trade facilitation. Additionally, the summit should endorse the outcome of discussions in New York on the African Union Mission in Somalia, (AMISOM). On current plans, the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for North West Norfolk (Mr Bellingham) will represent the Prime Minister at the summit.

EU-India

The EU-India summit takes place on 10 December. We expect that the summit will complement our recent drive to enhance the UK's bilateral ties with India. The FAC will consider the agenda and objectives of the summit which will focus on trade, climate change and regional and security issues of interest to both sides.

EU-Russia

The EU-Russia summit will be held on 7 December. The UK supports the proposed agenda which includes Russia's WTO accession, negotiations on a new EU-Russia agreement, climate change and EU-Russia relations including support for the partnership for modernisation.

OSCE

Ministers will be invited to discuss preparations for the forthcoming summit (1 and 2 December) in Astana.

The UK delegation will be led by the Deputy Prime Minister. I will also attend. The summit will mark a key step in the Corfu process, set up in 2009 to address a Russian initiative on the future of European security in a comprehensive manner covering all three OSCE dimensions—human, economic and environment and politico-military. The UK and EU's summit objectives are focused on four priority areas:

To strengthen the OSCE's conflict prevention/resolution capabilities, including in relation to protracted conflicts, updating existing and considering new mechanisms as needed.

To reaffirm the OSCE's commitments. Updating and strengthening of commitments in the areas of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of the media.

To strengthen the conventional arms control framework in Europe, including confidence and security building measures.

To enhance the role of the OSCE on Afghanistan, and more generally on countering transnational threats; for example, WMD proliferation, organised crime, terrorism, narcotics.

Iran

Ministers may discuss the state of the E3+3 (UK, France and Germany, and US, China and Russia) negotiations with Iran, depending on progress achieved. Ministers may also raise human rights in Iran.

Middle East Peace Process and Lebanon

Ministers may discuss developments in the US-led middle east peace talks and what the EU can do to support progress. On Lebanon, Ministers are expected to adopt conclusions that express concern about the current situation in Lebanon and supports the National Unity Government and the special tribunal process.

Sudan

Ministers will discuss the situation in Sudan. The UK will be looking for the EU to agree conclusions that set a clear agenda for what more can be done to ensure the successful completion of the comprehensive peace agreement, whatever the outcome of the referendum. The conclusions should stress the urgency needed on preparations for the referendum to take place in January. The Council will also discuss the conflict in Darfur, and may stress that efforts must continue to find an inclusive political solution to the Darfur conflict, and underline the importance of improving security and humanitarian access in Darfur. The UK will encourage a further discussion on Sudan in December.

Iraq

The discussion on Iraq will focus on the internal security situation and in particular recent attacks on the Christian community. The UK has condemned these attacks and others against Shia targets. A number of EU member states have also expressed concern over the attacks. The UK judges that it is important that the current (and future) Iraq Government protect all communities in Iraq, including minorities, against violence. Ministers may be asked to agree conclusions.

European Count of Justice (Appointment of Romanian Judge)

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): At a conference of representatives of Governments of member states on 18 November 2010 the appointment of a Romanian judge to the General Court is to be considered.

The nomination is in respect of Andrei Popescu.

Having consulted with the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice and the Attorney-General, I agree to the appointment.

Written Ministerial Statements

Friday 19 November 2010

TREASURY

Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Regulated Activities)

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Mr David Gauke): It has been brought to the Government's attention that the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Regulated Activities) (Amendment) Order 2010 ("the 2010 Order"), which came into force on 24 February 2010 has unintentionally had a number of potential adverse consequences for the tax and regulatory treatment of some types of debt securities.

The Government intend at the earliest practicable opportunity to make the necessary amendments in secondary legislation to restore the legal position in respect of the potentially affected debt securities. This will rectify the potential problem going forward.

Action will also be taken to ensure that no unintended consequences arise for the potentially affected debt securities regarding regulatory or tax treatment between the coming into force of the 2010 Order on 24 February 2010, and the date on which the remedying amendments come into force.

HMRC has confirmed that it will take no action to establish or collect any tax liabilities that may arise from these unintended consequences. The Government will introduce, as necessary, legislation in the next Finance Bill to restore previous expectations about the way that potentially affected debt securities are taxed, subject to an opt-out to ensure the retrospective application of new legislation does not increase tax liabilities.

CABINET OFFICE

Government Spending Data (Publication)

The Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General (Mr Francis Maude): Today we have released all Government spend processed since the Government took office. This set of data is the key to so much that this Government wants to achieve—driving value for money by forcing accountability for every penny spent, encouraging competition and innovation in providing services and driving economic growth.

Starting from now, and updated every month, each Government Department will publish on www.Data.gov.uk every item of spending over £25,000. Some Departments are going even further by publishing everything over £500. Each item will be listed in detail, with the date of transaction, the value, the name of the contractor and the description of the good or service purchased.

It is our defining purpose to bring about a power shift in this country—to transfer control to individuals and neighbourhoods. Control over public services so people decide the things that really matter to them—the school they send their child to or the hospital they get treated in. And because information is power, transparency is a crucial part of this power shift. After all, it is information that lets people take on the political class, question them, demand answers and get those answers. It is information that lets people choose between different public services, increasing competition and raising standards.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Flooding (Cornwall)

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman): Members will be aware of the serious flooding that affected parts of Cornwall in particular on Wednesday 17 November, causing disruption and distress to many people. At its height, 10 flood warnings were in place though these have now been removed.

The flooding was caused by very heavy rainfall from Tuesday evening onwards: 38.8 mm fell in one hour at Mevagissey. This resulted in significant surface water and river flooding, causing widespread travel difficulties and damage to more than 250 properties. Affected areas include St Austell, Par, Pentewan, Bodmin, Luxulyan, Lostwithiel, St Blazey, St Blazey Gate, Polgooth, Launceston, and Mevagissey. The issues faced varied from place to place, requiring different local responses. The Environment Agency intends to hold clinics in each community to address the issues and build resilience.

Across Cornwall, around 3,000 properties in vulnerable areas were protected as a result of flood defence schemes. These included up to 100 on the river Fowey at Lostwithiel.

An extreme rainfall alert was issued by the Flood Forecasting Centre on Tuesday afternoon, highlighting the risk of very heavy rainfall overnight. This alert allowed local authorities to prepare to respond. The emergency has rightly been dealt with by responders at the local level who are best placed to make decisions and take action according to local needs.

Helicopters were on stand-by but not needed for flood rescue, though one medical evacuation was carried out. There was some fast-moving water, but no major injuries or missing persons have been reported. Many residents were, however, evacuated and spent the night away from home.

The Prime Minister has spoken to the leader of the Cornwall county council and heard first hand how local authorities are dealing with the situation. I visited the areas affected on Thursday to meet some of the people affected and see how agencies responded. The council held a series of public meetings on Wednesday evening in Lostwithiel, St Blazey and Mevagissey to provide residents and councillors with the latest information and to offer support and advice.

We have all seen on television just what an effect the flooding has had on homes, businesses and communities. It causes significant disruption and we express our sympathy to all those affected and also wish to pay tribute to all who have been involved in responding to this emergency, in particular those who worked so hard throughout Wednesday. This shows what can be done by communities working together.

The Government will continue to work with local authorities to help people rebuild their lives, although we know sadly that it takes time for homes and buildings to dry out. The Department for Communities and Local Government is ready to consider any application for Bellwin assistance from the local authorities affected. Once the damage has been assessed, CLG will be happy to discuss the best way forward with local councils.

The insurance industry has a key role to play in assisting the recovery process. The Association of British Insurers has said that insurers' first priority will be to ensure that every claim is dealt with as quickly as possible and has put advice on its website for people who have been flooded by the heavy rain in Cornwall. At a recent flood summit on 16 September, Government, insurers and other stakeholders agreed to continue to work in partnership towards 2013 when the current agreement between insurers and Government expires.

As a Government we are committed to ensure that flood and coastal erosion risk is managed effectively. We have started the implementation of the Flood and Water Management Act, providing for greater local leadership and partnership to address local flood risks. We are also protecting forecasting and warning services, and incident response, and prioritising the risk-based maintenance of existing defences. It is clear from the response the lessons of Sir Michael Pitt's report on the summer 2007 floods are being learnt.

DEFRA will be spending at least £2.1 billion on flood and coastal erosion risk management over the next four years. We intend that, by March 2015, 145,000 households will be better protected.

I want to assure Members that the Environment Agency, and their local emergency partners including the local authorities, are being extremely active and doing all they can to prevent flooding in areas currently at risk.

If people remain concerned about flooding they should visit the Environment Agency's website or telephone their Floodline on 0845 988 1188.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Jobseeker's Allowance (Work for your Benefit Pilot Scheme) Regulations

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Chris Grayling): On 21 June 2010 we notified bidders that we would not be proceeding with the Work for Your Benefit pilot scheme.

The Jobseeker's Allowance (Work for your Benefit Pilot Scheme) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/1222) were approved in draft by each House of Parliament in March 2010 and were made on 7 April 2010. They are due to come into force on 22 November 2010, and then to lapse on 21 November 2013. These regulations allow the Secretary of State to select claimants in pilot areas for participation in the scheme if they meet specified conditions. They also provide for the loss or reduction of benefit if persons selected fail to participate without good cause.

As a result of this decision, no jobseeker's allowance claimants will be selected for participation in the scheme.

As part of the wider reforms to welfare that this Government are undertaking, I will in due course be announcing further details of the support we will be offering to improve the job chances of long-term unemployed people.

Petitions

Wednesday 10 November 2010

PRESENTED PETITION

Petition presented to the House on Tuesday 9 November 2010 but not read on the Floor

Elizabeth Regina Love Correspondence

The Petition of Mr Martin Burke,

Declares that on 10 December 2004 Her Majesty the Queen honoured Mr Martin Burke with the invitation that the badge for his business, the letters E and R with a heart design, be Her Majesty's (with effect from 28 February 2004). Declares that the correspondence between the petitioner and Buckingham Palace in 2004 was private, however sometimes confusion has arisen so in June 2007 the letters were made public.

Declares that at first glance the correspondence may appear to say the opposite of what it does say so a detailed analysis has been given, available at the new web address www.elizabethreginalove.com/correspondence (changed from www.eheartr.com).

Declares that this analysis firstly notes the way of operating in the petitioners' first letter dated 28 February 2004: that if you announce your intention to do something and nothing is said then leave is granted, and further declares that in now over 6 years since no instruction to cease and desist has been given, on the contrary. Notes that further detailed analysis of the correspondence is given in this analysis. Further declares that the petitioner was asked very courteously that the badge for Emotion Records be The Queen's Cypher. Declares that in respect of this the trading name of Emotion Records Limited was changed to Elizabeth Regina Love and its range of activities further widened.

Further declares that the guidance from the Lord Chamberlain's office on the use of Royal Arms, Names and Images is that the use of the Royal Arms and of Royal Devices, Emblems and Titles, or of Arms, Devices, etc., [...] is prohibited by the Trades Marks Act 1994, unless the permission of the Member of the Royal Family concerned has been obtained, and that the Lord Chamberlain's office gave the Queen's permission.

Notes that the apparent ambiguity in the correspondence was not a mistake, and that the petitioner was being asked to take the consequences of any misperception.

The petitioner therefore requests that the House of Commons accept a copy of the analysis of the correspondence for inclusion in the House of Commons Library, and that were the question put the House consent to the request(s) in this Mr Burke's 17th petition first emailed to the House on 30 March 2010, and amended and added to on 5 August 2010.

And the Petitioner remain, etc.

[P000867]

OBSERVATIONS

TRANSPORT

Intercity Express Programme

The Petition of residents of the Sedgefield constituency, and others,

Declares that the petitioners believe that the Government should implement the procurement of rolling stock through the Intercity Express programme, which would lead to Hitachi building a manufacturing site in Newton Aycliffe; and further declares that this would result in the creation of hundreds of direct jobs and thousands of jobs in the supply chain, of which the majority would be in manufacturing, giving a much needed boost to the North East economy and improving rail services nationwide.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to implement the procurement of rolling stock through the Intercity Express Programme.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Phil Wilson, Official Report,* 13 October 2010; Vol. 516, c. 459.]

[P000863]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport:

In February 2009, Agility Trains, a consortium of Hitachi and John Laing, was appointed preferred bidder to build and maintain a fleet of new Super Express trains under the Intercity Express Programme (IEP). The initial order, together with all of the options, would have brought the total fleet size up to 1,400 rail vehicles.

If the order goes ahead, Hitachi has made clear its ambition to establish a new assembly plant at Newton Aycliffe in the Sedgefield constituency, within County Durham to build the new trains. The new plant would employ around 500 people, and a further 200 during construction.

The Government also understand how important this project is to British manufacturing and the north east, and how seriously the project is being taken in Japan.

In his recent review of IEP, Sir Andrew Foster suggested that the programme should be paused while possible credible alternatives are assessed, and the Department has been progressing this work. Agility Trains made a submission to the Department during September, and it improves the business case for that particular option.

The work has been focused on how this option compares to the others: in terms of value for money and affordability.

We are currently giving further consideration to the revised proposals from Agility Trains for the Intercity Express Programme, and announcements on other DfT rolling stock programmes will be made in the light of the Government's ongoing work on IEP.

Petition

Thursday 11 November 2010

OBSERVATIONS

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Traveller Sites on Green Belt Land (South Staffordshire)

The Petition of residents of the South Staffordshire constituency and others,

Declares that Traveller sites are being built on green belt land; and further declares that the petitioners believe that planning law should apply to these sites.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to bring forward proposals to change the law to prevent Traveller sites being imposed on green belt land.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Gavin Williamson, Official Report,* 27 July 2010; Vol. 514, c. 972.]

[P000853]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

On 6 July the Secretary of State announced the revocation of Regional Strategies. This has removed the system of top-down regional numbers and plans. It means that local authorities are now responsible for determining the right level of site provision in their area, reflecting local need and historic demand, in consultation with local communities.

The Government intend to revoke Planning Circular 01/06, subject to necessary impact assessments. It will be replaced with a short policy statement and light-touch guidance. This is being done as part of a broader package of reforms to decentralise the planning system and strengthen the role of elected councils.

We are committed to protecting Green Belt land and encouraging sustainable development. It remains very important that local authorities continue to plan for the future of their communities. We will encourage local authorities to provide appropriate sites for travellers, in consultation with local communities, and will offer incentives to do so.

Petition

Friday 12 November 2010

OBSERVATIONS

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Blockade of Gaza

The Petition of the West Wiltshire Palestinian Support Group and residents of the Chippenham Constituency,

Declares that Israel's blockade of Gaza is illegal and inhumane.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Foreign Secretary to call on Israel to end its blockade of Gaza.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Duncan Hames, Official Report,* 17 June 2010; Vol. 511, c. 13P.]

[P000836]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs:

We have consistently made it clear that the situation in Gaza is a tragedy and unsustainable. Together with the EU and Quartet, we have called on Israel to ease restrictions on access and enable a return to economic normality.

We therefore welcome Israel's decision to move from a list of 120 permitted goods to a list of specific prohibited items. This step shows that it is possible to lift the pressure on ordinary Gazans without compromising the security of ordinary Israelis. All parties must now work together urgently to deliver real change on the ground. This will mean building capacity at the crossings, getting vital reconstruction projects up and running and ensuring that Gazans can export as well as import goods. The UK stands ready to support this.

We are also doing what we can to offer practical support to the people of Gaza. Following the end of the Gaza conflict in 2009 the UK pledged £26.8 million to the people of Gaza for humanitarian aid and early recovery activities, of which over £24 million has already been spent, providing, for example, food for nearly one million people.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 8 November 2010

SCOTLAND

Citizens Advice Scotland

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what estimate he has made of the funding required from the Government to support Citizens Advice Scotland following its proposed acquisition of the responsibilities of Consumer Focus Scotland. [22686]

Michael Moore: The Government will work with Citizens Advice Scotland and Consumer Focus Scotland to ensure the transfer of functions is carried out smoothly. That will involve issues around funding.

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what *(a)* discussions and *(b)* correspondence on what dates he had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on the transfer of the work of Consumer Focus Scotland to Citizens Advice Scotland prior to the announcement of that transfer. [22687]

Michael Moore: I have regular exchanges with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on a range of issues.

The Scotland Office has had discussions with the Scottish Government and with Consumer Advice Scotland on the implications of the transfer of functions to Citizens Advice Scotland.

Mental Health

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what assessment he has made of the recommendations relevant to his Department's policy responsibilities contained in the Foresight report on Mental Capital and Well-Being by the Government Office for Science; if he will ensure that his Department takes steps to promote well-being; if he will ensure that his Department's policy development process takes account of psychological research into subjective well-being; and if he will make a statement. [22755]

Michael Moore: I welcome the conclusions of the Foresight Project on Mental Capital and Wellbeing and will ensure that my Department acts on these as appropriate.

Public Expenditure

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what is his most recent estimate of the Barnett consequential for Scotland from planned changes to higher education funding in England; and if he will make a statement. [22671]

Michael Moore: The spending review sets out how the Government will carry out Britain's unavoidable deficit reduction plan by putting the economy back on a sustainable footing. The Scottish Government's budget is calculated using the Barnett formula which allocates population based shares of changes to spending on devolved matters, although it is for the Scottish Government to determine how they allocate their budget. The Scottish budget announced at the spending review therefore includes the population based share of the higher education resource budget in England being reduced by 40%, or £2.9 billion, from £7.1 billion to £4.2 billion by 2014-15.

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what is his most recent estimate of the Barnett consequential for Scotland resulting from planned changes to the further education budget in England. [22672]

Michael Moore: The spending review sets out how the Government will carry out Britain's unavoidable deficit reduction plan by putting the economy back on a sustainable footing. The Scottish Government's budget is calculated using the Barnett formula which allocates population based shares of changes to spending on devolved matters, although it is for the Scottish Government to determine how they allocate their budget. The Scottish budget announced at the spending review therefore includes the population based share of the further education resource budget in England being reduced by 25%, or £1.1 billion, from £4.3 billion to £3.2 billion by 2014-15.

Students

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he last met representatives of higher education students in Scotland. [22670]

Michael Moore: Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Early Retirement

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many staff of his Department have been offered enhanced early retirement packages in each of the last three years. [22032]

Mr Paterson: In each of the last three years my Department has offered the following enhanced early retirement packages:

	Number
2008	0
2009	1
2010	1

Departmental Reviews

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what departmental policy reviews his Department has undertaken since 6 May 2010; on what date each such review *(a)* was announced and *(b)* is expected to publish its findings; what estimate he has made of the cost of each such review; who has been appointed to lead each such review; to what remuneration each review leader is entitled; how many (i) full-time equivalent civil servants and (ii) seconded staff are working on each such review; from which organisations such staff have been seconded; and how much on average such seconded staff will be paid for their work on the review. [21877]

Mr Paterson: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) has not undertaken any departmental policy reviews since 6 May 2010.

Departmental Travel

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate his Department has made of its expenditure on travel undertaken by *(a)* him and *(b)* each other Minister in his Department in (i) September and (ii) October 2010. [21861]

Mr Paterson: Travel expenditure incurred by the Northern Ireland Office ministerial team for September and October 2010 is as follows:

September travel expenditure

Secretary of State: £5,535.35

Minister of State: £1,448.00.

October travel expenditure

Secretary of State: £10,233.55

Minister of State: £1,797.44.

Human Trafficking

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the level of human trafficking into Northern Ireland. [22375]

Mr Paterson: I have had no recent discussions on this subject. Policy relating to organised crime is the responsibility of the devolved Administration in Northern Ireland, in liaison with the Home Secretary and other UK authorities where appropriate.

Mental Health

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of recommendations relevant to his Department's policy responsibilities contained in the Foresight report on Mental Capital and Wellbeing by the Government Office for Science; if he will ensure that his Department takes steps to promote well-being; if he will ensure that his Department's policy development process takes account of psychological research into subjective well-being; and if he will make a statement. [22756]

Mr Paterson: No recommendations contained in the Foresight report on Mental Capital and Wellbeing are relevant to the Department's policy responsibilities.

WALES

Departmental Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much her Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each of its Ministers in *(a)* September and *(b)* October 2010. [21791]

Mr David Jones: Nil.

Departmental Redundancy

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) how much funding to meet staff redundancy costs was identified in her Department's settlement letter in respect of the comprehensive spending review; [21556]

(2) what estimate she has made of the number of redundancies arising from the spending reductions proposed in the Comprehensive Spending Review; [21557]

(3) what estimate she has made of the cost to her Department of staff redundancy in each of the next four years. [21558]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office has no plans for any redundancies at present. Any work force reductions would most likely be achieved through routine staff turnover. Determining optimal work force reforms in order to live within the Department's spending review settlement will be an ongoing process.

Departmental Reviews

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what departmental policy reviews her Department has undertaken since 6 May 2010; on what date each such review *(a)* was announced and *(b)* is expected to publish its findings; what estimate she has made of the cost of each such review; who has been appointed to lead each such review; to what remuneration each review leader is entitled; how many (i) full-time equivalent civil servants and (ii) seconded staff are working on each such review; from which organisations such staff have been seconded; and how much on average such seconded staff will be paid for their work on the review. [21874]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office has not undertaken any departmental policy reviews.

Departmental Travel

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what estimate her Department has made of its expenditure on travel undertaken by *(a)* her and *(b)* each other Minister in her Department in (i) September and (ii) October 2010. [21857]

Mr David Jones: The cost of travel for the Secretary of State was £455 in September and £173 in October. My travel costs were £146 in September and £169 in October.

The Wales Office continues to make significant savings on travel since the Welsh Secretary instigated a standard class only travel policy for all Ministers and staff.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Elections: Constituencies

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, what guidance the Electoral Commission issues to local government boundary reviews on the *(a)* number of members to be elected in each ward and *(b)* the frequency of elections. [21752]

Mr Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that it issues no such guidance. The responsibility for local government boundary reviews lies with the local government boundary commissions for England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) informs me that it issues electoral review guidance to local authorities within the framework provided by the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

The Act provides that where a local authority which holds, or has resolved to hold, whole council elections every four years requests the LGBCE to undertake a single-member ward review, there is a presumption that the LGBCE should recommend a pattern of single-member wards for that authority. Where a local authority elects its members by thirds (elections in three years out of every four), there is a presumption that the LGBCE should recommend a uniform pattern of three-member wards. Similarly, where a local authority elects by halves (elections in two years out of four), there is a presumption that the LGCBE should recommend two-member wards.

However, in each of these circumstances, the LGBCE is obliged to recommend a pattern of wards that best meets all of its other statutory criteria: to provide for equality of representation; to reflect community identities and interests; and to secure effective and convenient local government. This overrides any presumption to recommend a uniform pattern of single-, two- or three-member wards. Accordingly, the LGBCE is able to recommend a mixed pattern of wards if that would best meet its statutory criteria.

The LGBCE does not provide guidance on the frequency of elections.

Elections: Referendums

Guto Bebb: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, what estimate the Electoral Commission has made of the cost to the public purse of each referendum and election due to take place on 5 May 2011. [21823]

Mr Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that the estimated cost of its own activities relating to the UK-wide referendum proposed for 5 May, and which would also support the elections already scheduled in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales on 5 May, is £9.3 million.

This includes the cost of fulfilling its statutory responsibilities at a referendum, including delivering a public information campaign and making grants of public money, up to a maximum of £0.6 million each, to the designated organisations appointed as lead campaigners for each of the referendum outcomes. The Cabinet Office has developed separate estimates for the total costs of running a national referendum and I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister for Political and Constitutional Reform, the hon. Member for Forest of Dean, (Mr Harper) on 14 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 798W.

Should the UK-wide referendum not take place then the Commission informs me that its estimated costs in relation to the scheduled elections on 5 May 2011 alone would be approximately £3 million.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Departmental Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Attorney-General how much the Law Officers' Departments spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in those departments in *(a)* September and *(b)* October 2010. [21802]

The Attorney-General: There has not been any expenditure on such events by the Law Officers' Departments during this period.

Departmental Reviews

Mr Watson: To ask the Attorney-General what departmental policy reviews the Law Officers' Departments have undertaken since 6 May 2010; on what date each such review *(a)* was announced and *(b)* is expected to publish its findings; what estimate he has made of the cost of each such review; who has been appointed to lead each such review; to what remuneration each review leader is entitled; how many (i) full-time equivalent civil servants and (ii) seconded staff are working on each such review; from which organisations such staff have been seconded; and how much on average such seconded staff will be paid for their work on the review. [21892]

The Attorney-General: The Law Officer's Departments have not undertaken any policy reviews since 6 May 2010.

Departmental Travel

Ian Austin: To ask the Attorney-General what estimate the Law Officers' Departments have made of expenditure on travel undertaken by *(a)* him and *(b)* each other Minister in these Departments in (i) September and (ii) October 2010. [21863]

The Attorney-General: Travel by Ministers is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

The expenditure on air and rail travel undertaken by the Attorney-General and the Solicitor-General in September and October 2010 is as follows:

£

	Attorney-General	*Solicitor-General*
September	620	530
October	38	0

The Law Officers also made use of the Government Car Service during this period for shorter journeys while on Government business, the annual costs for which are presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State for Transport in a written ministerial statement.

Human Trafficking: Prosecutions

Mr Bone: To ask the Attorney-General what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Crown Prosecution Service in bringing prosecutions for offences relating to human trafficking; and if he will make a statement. [22373]

The Attorney-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) is working to improve the number of prosecutions under human trafficking legislation. Where the CPS is unable to prosecute for a human trafficking offence, they will charge other offences such as assisting unlawful immigration to a member state (facilitation), combined with serious criminal offences such as rape, kidnapping, false imprisonment, threats to kill and causing or inciting prostitution for gain. All cases are reviewed in accordance with the Code for Crown Prosecutors.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Biodiversity: International Cooperation

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will place in the Library a copy of the international agreement on biodiversity concluded at Nagoya in October 2010. [22197]

Richard Benyon: Over 40 decisions were agreed by the 193 parties to the convention on biological diversity (CBD), by consensus. These included an agreement on a new protocol on access and benefit sharing with respect to genetic resources, a new strategic plan setting out the actions required by parties to meet the new mission of the convention, and a resource mobilisation strategy to help developing countries to deliver their commitments for biodiversity. The decisions are available as advance, unedited texts from the CBD website. The final versions will be published on the CBD website once the official Rapporteur of the meeting has agreed to them.

Copies of decisions of meetings of intergovernmental bodies like the Conference of the Parties to the CBD would not normally be placed in the Library, as they are not published in the United Kingdom, and are freely available from the internet.

Dangerous Dogs

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department holds figures on the incidence of dog-on-dog attacks. [22668]

Mr Paice: Figures on the numbers of dog-on-dog attacks are not centrally recorded.

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will bring forward measures to reduce the number of dog-on-dog attacks. [22669]

Mr Paice: Earlier this year, the law on dangerous dogs was the subject of a public consultation. The consultation closed on 1 June and some of the 4,250 responses referred to the issue of dog-on-dog attacks. The Government will be publishing a summary of the responses and will make an announcement about the way ahead shortly.

Dangerous Dogs Act

Jake Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what timescale she has set for the continuation of her Department's public consultation on the Dangerous Dogs Act. [20654]

Mr Paice: The consultation closed on 1 June and received 4,250 responses. The Government will be publishing a summary of the responses and make an announcement about the way ahead shortly.

Dogs: Breeding

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she plans to take to ensure that measures suggested by the Advisory Council on the Welfare Issues of Dog Breeding are implemented by *(a)* the Kennel Club and *(b)* breed clubs. [22425]

Mr Paice: The Government welcome the establishment of the independent Dog Advisory Council, whose members are currently being appointed. However, it is premature to offer a commitment to facilitate any recommendations that the council may make.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will take steps to ensure that pedigree dogs are free from genetic disease and exaggerated conformations before they are allowed to breed; and if she will make a statement. [22426]

Mr Paice: I consider that the recent establishment of an independent Dog Advisory Council is a positive step towards protecting the health of all dogs. The council will address breeding malpractices and it is premature to speculate at this stage what actions Government may be asked to take to promote higher breed standards.

EU Grants and Loans

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what matched funding for Rural Development Fund payments to farmers in England there has been in each of the last five years. [22495]

Mr Paice: The following table shows figures on the matched funding for rural development fund payments to farmers in England in each of the last five years.

£ million

Financial year	*European funds*	*Exchequer match funds*
2009-10	267,904	193,830
2008-09	234,301	184,445
2007-08	193,402	173,130
2006-07	152,850	182,233
2005-06	117,302	157,228

The spend figures above were taken from DEFRA's consolidated resource accounts.

These figures are the total spend, and include funding paid to rural projects, some of which went to non-farming socio-economic beneficiaries.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Electronic Equipment

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information her Department holds on the level of sales of hydrofluorocarbon gases for refrigeration and air conditioning equipment in the UK in each of the last five years. [22450]

Mr Paice: DEFRA does not hold specific information on the level of sales of hydrofluorocarbon gases (HFCs) in the UK in each of the last five years. However, a study undertaken by AEA Technology on behalf of DEFRA and the Department for Energy and Climate Change, considers the use and consumption of HFCs in the UK in all sectors where emissions occur, including the refrigeration and air conditioning sectors. This study revalidates and updates historic consumption, and provides an estimate of emissions through to 2050. A copy of the study is available on the DEFRA website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/air/fgas/documents/hfc-aeat101005.pdf

Meat: Labelling

Angie Bray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will take steps to ensure that the public is made aware of the slaughter method used for meat sold by food retailers; and if she will make a statement. [22380]

Mr Paice: I appreciate that this is an issue which people feel strongly about and we will be working with interested groups to find a way to address their concerns. People should know what they are buying in shops and when they are eating out, and I will be discussing with the food industry whether labelling and point of sale information can play a greater role in giving consumers a choice.

Otters

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to maintain the habitat of wild otters. [21697]

Richard Benyon: Pollution control and river management works carried out by the Environment Agency with water companies, wildlife trusts, local rivers trusts and riparian landowners have helped to improve water quality and habitat structure in many rivers in England and Wales.

Further habitat improvement and pollution prevention work, including land management incentives to tackle diffuse pollution, will help to make further improvements to the ecological status of rivers over the next few years. This should allow otters to continue their recovery, which has already seen an increase from occurrence at 5.8% of river sites in 1977-79 to 58.8% in 2009-10.

Pets: EU Action

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make it her policy to sign the European Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals. [22429]

Mr Paice: We have no current plans to sign the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals. The Animal Welfare Act 2006 means that our laws are already consistent with the principles set out in the convention. However, we continue to have concerns about some of the convention's detailed provisions.

Radiation: RAF Odiham

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what reasons have been identified for the increase in gamma radiation levels recorded by the Radioactive Incident Monitoring Network radiation monitor at Odiham between noon and 3pm on 4 August 2010. [21971]

Charles Hendry: I have been asked to reply.

During the period 13:00 hrs to 15:00 hrs on 4 August 2010 a severe electrical storm was present in the Odiham area and indications are that this affected the power supply to the RIMNET monitor on the Odiham site causing it to give abnormal readings which were recorded by the RIMNET system. The original probe, while not faulty, has been replaced as a precaution.

Rural Areas: Village Halls

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what support her Department gives to rural communities for the maintenance and improvement of village halls and community centres. [21482]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA currently funds the Rural Community Buildings Load Fund which is managed by Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE). This provides low cost loans to the sector, enabling communities to keep their buildings in a good state of repair. The funding of Community Halls dates back to the late 1930s. The current provision for this rolling fund stands at £700,000.

Additionally, DEFRA committed a total of £45,000 in funding over three years, from 2008-09 until 2010-11, towards research of the latest village hall survey. This was part of a package of support to fund Rural Communities Action Network (RCAN) for supporting rural communities as part of Community Empowerment and Rural Partnership Programme. The national rural community buildings survey is probably the most comprehensive information source on community-owned buildings, and provides detailed information on their physical state, financing, use and governance. In particular, some of the data were used by the Big Lottery to help make the case for the recently announced new Big Lottery Reaching Communities Programme for the extension and refurbishment of halls.

Seals: Conservation

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will bring forward legislative proposals to amend the Conservation of Seals Act 1970 to enhance the legal protection of seals. [22423]

Richard Benyon: The Protection of Seals Act 1970, in combination with other legislation, provides appropriate protection for seals in England. It provides a proportionate balance between the conservation of the seals and the needs of those impacted upon by individual problem seals.

However, DEFRA has submitted wildlife conservation and protection legislation as an area for potential review by the Law Commission under its Regulatory Reform Programme.

Sustainable Development

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brighton Pavilion (Caroline Lucas) of 19 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 634W, on sustainable development, what discussions she has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on steps to ensure that sustainable development is fully embedded into the Treasury's Green Book. [20506]

Mr Paice: DEFRA's Structural Reform Plan, agreed with the Prime Minister, commits us to produce guidance to ensure that sustainability and the value of nature are taken into account in policy appraisal. My officials are working closely with Her Majesty's Treasury and the Government Economic Service members across Whitehall to ensure the recommendations of the DEFRA-led Review of the Economics of Sustainable Development are implemented. This includes work to improve the way we take account of environmental impacts in policy appraisal. The Government expect Parliament will play a major role in holding it to account in achieving this.

Economists and social researchers from DEFRA are taking a lead role in the cross-government Social Impacts Task Force (co-chaired by DEFRA's Chief Economist), which aims to ensure that analysts across Government are more systematically and consistently assessing social impacts, which was a recommendation of the Review. The Task Force's remit includes developing guidance to help departments assess the social impacts of Government policies; and highlighting the importance of social impacts and wellbeing indicators in cost benefit analysis and impact assessment of policies. One of the outputs produced by the taskforce will include developing supplementary guidance on social impacts.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions: Companies

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department plans to implement mandatory reporting of carbon emissions for UK-listed companies. [21276]

Mr Paice: I have been asked to reply.

I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to the hon. Member for Hartlepool (Mr Wright) 27 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 319W.

Departmental Reviews

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what departmental policy reviews his Department has undertaken since 6 May 2010; on what date each such review *(a)* was announced and *(b)* is expected to publish its findings; what estimate he has made of the cost of each such review; who has been appointed to lead each such review; to what remuneration each review leader is entitled; how many (i) full-time equivalent civil servants and (ii) seconded staff are working on each such review; from which organisations such staff have been seconded; and how much on average such seconded staff will be paid for their work on the review. [21885]

Gregory Barker: DECC has undertaken the following reviews since 6 May 2010:

Review	*Date announced*	*Date findings due to be published*	*Estimate of total cost of review*	*Appointed reviewer and remuneration*	*Number of FTE civil servants working on review*	*Number of seconded staff and average cost*
Ofgem review	27 July 2010	Spring 2011	The reviews are financed through the Department's general budgets and no specific budget has been allocated to them.	The reviews are both led by Department of Energy and Climate Change staff. DECC staff leading reviews have been recruited from within the Department and would not be entitled to further payments for their work in addition to their salary.	4	[1]1
Electricity Market Reform	27 July 2010	Consultation document autumn 2010; White Paper spring 2011			11	[2]1

Review	*Date announced*	*Date findings due to be published*	*Estimate of total cost of review*	*Appointed reviewer and remuneration*	*Number of FTE civil servants working on review*	*Number of seconded staff and average cost*
Review of the Carbon Reduction Commitment(CRC) scheme	Ongoing review of CRC scheme being under taken as announced in 2009 consultation.	Ongoing (we announced in 2009 that we would keep this under review)	—	—	4	n/a

[1] (Ernst and Young LLP) paid by DECC within the Grade 7 salary band, £46,975-£56,597. As this seconded member of staff is below the senior civil service grade the actual amount paid to them is withheld under section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act.

[2] Secondee (Deloitte) paid by DECC within the Grade 7 salary band, £46,975-£56,597. As this seconded member of staff is below the Senior Civil Service grade the actual amount paid to them is withheld under Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Electricity Generation

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the production price per kWh is for each major electricity generating technology method. [21998]

Charles Hendry: The following tables are taken from Mott Macdonald (2010) and give levelised cost estimates (average generation cost per megawatt-hour) for new build plants in the main large-scale electricity generation technologies in the UK, including onshore wind, offshore wind and nuclear, at current engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contract prices.

Where technologies are emerging, costs are given on a First-of-a-Kind (FOAK) basis, which includes a cost premium associated with early projects.

Case 1: 10% discount rate, 2009 project start at today's EPC prices, with mixed FOAK/NOAK

Levelised cost	*Gas CCGT*	*Gas CCGT with CCS - FOAK*	*ASC coal*	*ASC coal with CCCS - FOAK*	*Coal IGCC - FOAK*
Capital Costs	12.4	29.8	33.4	74.1	61.7
Fixed operating costs	3.7	7.7	8.6	18.6	9.7
Variable operating costs	2.3	3.6	2.2	4.7	3.4
Fuel costs	46.9	65.0	19.9	28.7	20.3
Carbon costs	15.1	2.1	40.3	6.5	39.6
Decomm and waste fund	—	—	—	—	—
CO_2 transport and storage	4.3	—	9.6	—	9.5
Steam revenue	—	—	—	—	—
Total levelised cost	80.3	112.5	104.5	142.1	134.6

Levelised cost	*Coal IGCC with CCS - FOAK*	*Onshore wind*	*Offshore wind - FOAK*	*Offshore wind R3 - FOAK*	*Nuclear PWR FOAK*
Capital Costs	82.0	79.2	124.1	144.6	77.3
Fixed operating costs	17.7	14.6	36.7	45.8	12 2
Variable operating costs	4.6	—	—	—	2.1
Fuel costs	28.3	—	—	—	5.3
Carbon costs	5.5	—	—	—	—
Decomm and waste fund	—	—	—	2.1	
CO_2 transport and storage	—	—	—		
Steam revenue	—	—	—	—	
Total levelised cost	147.6	93.9	160.9	190.5	99.0

Source:

Mott Macdonald (2010), UK electricity generation costs update, available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/Statistics/Projections/71-uk-electricity-generation-costs-update-.pdf

The following are the levelised costs per MWh for projects started in 2017. They are all given here on the basis of Nth-of-a-Kind (NOAK) meaning it is assumed that all technologies have matured and there has been a cost reduction through learning. For some technologies this is expected to result in a reduction in costs.

Case 2: 10% discount rate: 2017 project start at projected EPC prices, all NOAK Coal

Levelised cost	*Gas -CCGT*	*Gas - CCGT with CCS*	*ASC Coal*	*ASC Coal+CCS*	*Coal IGCC*	*Coal IGCCC with CCS*	*Onshore Wind*	*Offshore Wind*	*Offshore Wind R3*	*Nuclear - PWR*
Capital costs	11.2	20.7	28.7	47.8	33.7	46.5	71.7	89.4	97.0	49.6

Case 2: 10% discount rate: 2017 project start at projected EPC prices, all NOAK Coal

Levelised cost	*Gas -CCGT*	*Gas - CCGT with CCS*	*ASC Coal*	*ASC Coal+CCS*	*Coal IGCC*	*Coal IGCCC with CCS*	*Onshore Wind*	*Offshore Wind*	*Offshore Wind R3*	*Nuclear - PWR*
Fixed operating costs	3.7	6.0	8.6	13.8	8.0	12.3	14.6	23.0	30.9	9.1
Variable operating costs	2.3	3.6	2.2	3.7	2.7	3.6	—	—	—	1.8
Fuel costs	49.8	64.7	19.9	27.6	19.6	27.2	—	—	—	5.2
Carbon costs	29.6	4.1	73.8	11.4	72.0	10.0	—	—	—	—
Decomm and waste fund	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.1
CO_2 transport and storage	—	3.5	—	7.6	—	7.5	—	—	—	—
Steam revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total levelised cost	96.5	102.6	133.2	111.9	136.0	107.1	86.3	112.4	127.9	67.8

It should be noted that the estimates of levelised costs for different types of electricity generation are highly sensitive to the assumptions used for capital costs, fuel and European Union Emissions Trading Scheme allowance prices, operating costs, load factor, and other drivers. Meaning that there is significant uncertainty around these estimates.

The levelised costs reflect only the cost of power generation and its delivery to the grid. They do not reflect the availability to certain technologies of subsidy such as Renewables Obligation Certificates.

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has discussed with the devolved administrations his proposals for replacement of current nuclear electricity generation. [21999]

Charles Hendry: The Government have discussed and, where appropriate, consulted with the devolved Administrations throughout the development of the new nuclear programme.

Energy: Prices

Dr Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many tariffs from energy supply companies were available to consumers in each of the last six months. [20439]

Charles Hendry: DECC does not hold the information requested. To meet its principal duty, to protect the interests of consumers, Ofgem collects relevant information but I understand it does not have the specific data requested. However, Ofgem are able to provide details of the number of tariffs available to a new domestic gas, electricity and dual fuel customer based on a snapshot of 1 November 2010[1]. The following table excludes: social tariffs; any tariffs that were closed to a new customer as at 1 November 2010; and tariffs offered by suppliers other than the main six energy suppliers. The majority of tariffs are available in each region. In some cases, tariffs may have the same price and payment method—but there could be differences in service options such as loyalty scheme points, vouchers or donations to different charities turning a single price and payment plan into multiple options.

Total number of tariffs available to a new customer in the average region, across main six energy suppliers

	Electricity	*Gas*	*Dual fuel*
Direct debit	109	20	129
Standard credit	69	15	73
Prepayment meter	17	7	16

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will bring forward proposals for minimum standards for energy tariffs which include a requirement for energy suppliers to *(a)* give notice of a month prior to a customer's deal coming to an end and *(b)* provide information on the tariff to which such customers will be transferred in circumstances in which they do not switch tariffs before the expiry of their deal. [20683]

Charles Hendry: The Energy Security and Green Energy Bill will include measures to improve energy efficiency and energy security, measures to enable low carbon generation and measures to clarify liabilities and responsibilities. We have no plans to include the very specific measures the hon. Member asks about.

In circumstances where a domestic customer will become subject to a deemed contract when an existing contract ends, Ofgem already requires energy suppliers to give the domestic customer details of the deemed contract terms 30 working days in advance of the date the existing contract is due to end.

Liquid Petroleum Gas

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will discuss with suppliers of fixed liquid petroleum gas supplies on communal contracts the provision of variations to such contracts in order to enable individual domestic consumers to withdraw from them. [22302]

Charles Hendry: I met on 4 November with representatives from UKLPG, the trade association which represents liquid petroleum gas suppliers. As part of the meeting, I discussed with them communal contracts and the provision of variations to such contracts in order to enable individual domestic consumers to switch

[1] The tariff data were provided by Energy Services Online Limited: www.theEnergyShop.com

supplier. I asked them to consider what more could be done to improve the functioning of the market.

The Office of Fair Trading will continue to monitor the market and do all they can to ensure that consumers can exercise their right to switch supplier.

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will extend the price protection rules applicable to gas and electricity resellers to cover the maximum price allowed to be charged by resellers of liquid petroleum gas to *(a)* customers in mobile home parks and *(b)* other customers. [22430]

Charles Hendry: The Maximum Resale Price (MRP) rules apply to the re-sale of gas and electricity within the regulated energy market. Under competition and consumer law, consumers have protection under the "Supply of Goods and Services Act" and "Unfair Terms in Consumer Contracts Regulations". The Office of Fair Trading and the Competition Commission are responsible for enforcement of competition and consumer law.

Ofgem: National Parks

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has issued guidance to Ofgem on its duty to have regard to the purposes of national parks and areas of outstanding natural beauty. [22983]

Charles Hendry: The Government have not issued Ofgem with guidance on these particular issues, although it has done so on wider social and environmental issues. Ofgem does, however, have a statutory duty to have regard to effects on the environment in carrying out its functions.

Renewable Energy

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what *(a)* financial and *(b)* other sanctions the EU institutions are entitled to impose on member states who do not meet the 15 per cent. renewables target. [21268]

Charles Hendry: Directive 2009/28/EC (the renewable energy directive) imposes a duty on the UK to ensure that its share of energy from renewable sources in gross final consumption of energy in 2020 is at least 15%.

If the Commission considers that a member state has failed to meet its obligations under the directive it will raise the issue with the member state concerned, giving the member state the opportunity to submit its observations. The Commission may then deliver a reasoned opinion requiring the member state to bring itself into compliance within such period of time as the Commission may specify. Should the member state dispute or fail to comply with the reasoned opinion, the Commission can bring infraction proceedings against the member state in the Court of Justice of the European Union.

If the member state fails to take the necessary measures to comply with the judgment of the Court of Justice, the European Commission can bring a further set of proceedings against the member state, seeking the imposition of a fine. The court could impose a lump sum fine and a recurring penalty payment which would apply until the member state complied with the judgment. There is no limit on the size of the fine that the court could impose, but the European Commission has issued guidance on the fines that it would seek (SEC(2005)1658 as updated by SEC(2010) 923/3).

Article 5(2) of the directive provides for a member state to inform the European Commission if it considers that, due to force majeure, it is impossible for it to meet its 2020 target. In the event that the Commission decides that force majeure has been demonstrated, it will determine what adjustment shall be made to the member state's levels of renewable energy for the year 2020.

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the cost per unit to the public purse of producing energy through *(a)* the Severn Barrage and *(b)* onshore wind farms. [22241]

Charles Hendry: The Severn Tidal Power feasibility study did not compare the costs of a scheme to onshore wind but used a range of other low-carbon generating technologies as comparators (offshore wind, coal with carbon capture and storage, and nuclear). No assessment was made of the potential cost of Severn tidal power to the public purse, as the study did not propose a funding or delivery mechanism.

The feasibility study also calculated levelised generation costs for five potential Severn power schemes. These can be compared to recent estimates of levelised costs for onshore wind to give an indication of the relative cost of the technologies, as set out in the following table. All Severn scheme costs exclude the costs of Compensatory Habitat provision and any adjustment for Optimism Bias.

Technology	*Levelised cost of generation, 10% discount rate (£/MWh)*
Cardiff Weston Barrage	199
Shoots Barrage	215
Beachley Barrage	267
Welsh Grounds Lagoon	320
Bridgwater Bay Lagoon	238
Onshore Wind (Nth of a Kind, 2017 Project Start Date)	86

Sources:

Severn scheme costs from Severn Tidal Power feasibility study Impact Assessment.

Onshore Wind costs from Mott MacDonald, "UK Electricity Generation Costs Update", June 2010, p87.

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the effect of not proceeding with plans for the construction of a Severn Barrage on the number of onshore wind farms to be constructed in the next 10 years. [22243]

Charles Hendry: The UK Renewable Energy Strategy (2009) sets out the Government's assessment of the potential contribution of different renewable energy generating technologies towards the UK 2020 renewable energy target. This assessment did not assume that a Severn tidal power scheme would contribute to meeting the target. As such, the Government's decision not to bring forward such a scheme has had no effect on the assessment of the potential amount of onshore wind that will be delivered by 2020.

Renewable Energy: Heating

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to ensure that individual installed heat pumps are certified as meeting the required average seasonal performance factor as defined in annex VII of the use of energy from renewable sources directive 2009/28/EC. [22448]

Gregory Barker: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Richmond Park (Zac Goldsmith) on 4 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 890W. The method for determining the average seasonal performance factor will feature as part of the European Commission's guidance, as required under the renewables directive. Certification will be crucial, and we will be seeking views on our approach to certification in our forthcoming consultations on our microgeneration strategy and on the renewable heat incentive regulations.

Wind Power: Na h-Eileanan an Iar

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the likely generation capacity of *(a)* on-shore and *(b)* off-shore wind energy in respect of Na h-Eileanan an Iar in the next (i) five and (ii) 10 years. [21769]

Charles Hendry: DECC does not make assessments of generation capacity in respect of individual areas such as Na h-Eileanan an Iar. Decisions on where to site wind farms are ultimately a matter for developers and planning authorities.

However, it is clear that Scotland will play a significant role in delivering the wind projects that we need to meet our 2020 renewable energy targets.

DEFENCE

Service Accommodation

19. **Stephen Gilbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of the condition of single living and service families' accommodation. [22180]

Mr Robathan: Over 95% of service family accommodation properties in the UK are currently at the top two standards for condition with some 41% of single living accommodation bed-spaces at the top two condition grades.

The Government place a high priority on the welfare of service personnel and their families and will therefore seek to improve accommodation from efficiencies within the Ministry of Defence.

Service Personnel: Reductions

20. **Tom Blenkinsop:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effect of his proposed reductions in service personnel on the UK's military capability. [22181]

Dr Fox: Changes to our future forces will ensure they retain their geographical reach and ability to operate across a spectrum from high-intensity intervention to enduring stabilisation activity. We will ensure we retain appropriate skills and maintain a coherent mix of trained and experienced personnel for the future.

Humanitarian Aid: Afghanistan

21. **Dr Poulter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what role the armed forces have in supporting the provision of humanitarian aid in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [22182]

Nick Harvey: The UK armed forces play an important role in supporting the provision of humanitarian aid in Afghanistan including through the UK-led Helmand Provincial Reconstruction Team.

The team has approximately 260 staff, around half of whom are military, provided by the UK, US, Denmark and Estonia. The role of the team is to help the Afghan Government improve their governance, services and security in Helmand.

National Security Council

22. **Nicholas Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what role the National Security Council has in ensuring closer working between his Department and other Government Departments. [22183]

Dr Fox: We set up the National Security Council to direct a fully co-ordinated Government response to the dangers we face. It integrates at the highest level the work of defence, foreign, home, energy and international development Departments, and all other arms of Government contributing to national security. It has successfully led the work on the Strategic Defence and Security Review and will see through its implementation.

Service Personnel: Germany

23. **Grahame M. Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with the German Government on the return of service personnel from Germany. [22184]

Dr Fox: I have written to the German Defence Minister, informing him of our aim to return half our personnel from Germany by 2015 and the remainder by 2020. I also reassured him that we will work closely with him to minimise the effects of our withdrawal and to maintain our close security and defence partnership. In addition my ministerial colleagues and officials maintain regular dialogue with their counterparts.

Defence Technical College

24. **Alun Michael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans his Department has for the defence technical college at MOD St Athan. [22185]

Nick Harvey: Following the announcement on 19 October 2010 to terminate the Defence Training Rationalisation procurement, work has now begun on alternative options for the future defence technical training solution. The St Athan site remains an option for consideration.

Compulsory Redundancies

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had on compulsory redundancies from the armed forces as a result of the outcomes of the strategic defence and security review. [22177]

Dr Fox: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier today to the hon. Member for Scunthorpe (Nic Dakin).

Africa: Military Attachés

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence to which countries in Africa British military attachés are posted. [22299]

Nick Harvey: There are British defence attachés in Algeria, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

Air Force: Military Bases

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the future of the RAF bases at *(a)* Kinloss and *(b)* Lossiemouth; when he plans to make a decision on their future; and if he will make a statement. [20661]

Nick Harvey: As detailed in the Strategic Defence and Security Review White Paper the decisions to not bring Nimrod MRA4 into service, retire the Harrier Force and reduce the size of our Tornado fleet, will mean that Kinloss and two other bases will no longer be required by the RAF. No decisions have yet been made on which other two bases will be affected, or on any future use of the bases, although it is possible that some of the estate vacated by the RAF will be used by units returning from Germany or retained for other Defence purposes.

Given the significant work required on our overall basing plan, it is unlikely that any final decisions on RAF basing or future Defence use of those bases will be taken before the end of the first quarter of next year.

Armed Forces: Mental Health Services

Oliver Colvile: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effect of the outcomes of the Strategic Defence and Security Review on mental healthcare provision for service personnel. [22167]

Dr Fox: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier today to the hon. Members for Enfield, Southgate (Mr Burrowes) and Croydon South (Richard Ottaway).

MOD St Athan: Training

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans his Department has for the facilities already established for service training at MOD St Athan. [20662]

Nick Harvey: Following the cancellation of the Defence Training Rationalisation private finance initiative, the initial works contracts already under way at Ministry of Defence St Athan will continue. Work to secure East Camp on health and safety grounds and to permit efficient management of the site over the next five years will be undertaken. The moves of No. 4 School of Technical Training, the University of Wales Air Squadron, and the Defence Support Group into other areas of East Camp will continue as planned.

MOD St Athan was previously chosen as the best location on which to collocate technical training for good reasons, and it remains an option for future defence training.

Nuclear Weapons

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brighton Pavilion of 15 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 351W, on nuclear weapons: *(a)* on what date and *(b)* at which location the 2010 stocktake meeting between the Government and the US administration under the 1958 Mutual Defence Agreement took place; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the programme for the meeting. [21966]

Peter Luff: The 34th meeting of the UK/US Stocktake was held in the US Department of Energy, Forrestal Building, Washington DC on 15 September 2010. The programme comprised discussions on nuclear threat reduction, warhead, and platform issues, together with a consideration of future exchanges.

I am withholding a copy of the programme for the purpose of safeguarding national security.

Public Expenditure

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of gross domestic product *(a)* was allocated to his Department in funding in each year since 2000 and *(b)* he expects to be so allocated in each year to 2015. [21610]

Dr Fox: Data on UK Defence spending as a proportion of GDP are collected and published by NATO in order to allow comparisons between NATO countries.

Data from 2000 are shown in the following table.

UK Defence spend proportion of GDP

	Percentage
2000	2.5
2001	2.5
2002	2.4
2003	2.4
2004	2.2
2005	2.5
2006	2.4
2007	2.5
2008	2.6
2009	2.7

The figures that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) provide to NATO are for Defence expenditure, as detailed in their instructions. This definition includes the MOD's core budget along with the cost of operations, pensions and Armed Forces Compensation Scheme payments made to ex-military personnel, and non-budget costs.

The specific percentage of GDP in future years will be dependent on the actual spend in those categories that are in addition to the Defence budget. The MOD has forecast, however, that spending on Defence as a percentage of GDP will continue to meet the NATO target of 2% over the spending review period.

Rescue Services: Helicopters

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many search and rescue missions were flown from RAF Kinross using MR2 aircraft in March 2010; and what the *(a)* distance and *(b)* duration was of each such mission. [22037]

Nick Harvey: Two search and rescue (SAR) missions were flown by MR2 aircraft from RAF Kinloss in March 2010. The distance and duration of each mission is shown as follows. The distances are in nautical miles from RAF Kinloss to the SAR task and do not represent the total distance flown. The durations relate only to the actual search and rescue mission.

	Distance (nautical miles)	*Duration (hours/mins)*
17 March 2010	184	2 hrs 26 mins
17 March 2010	625	5 hrs 15 mins

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many search and rescue missions were flown using C130 aircraft in the last five years; what the *(a)* distance and *(b)* duration was of each such mission; and from where each aircraft was dispatched. [22038]

Nick Harvey: One search and rescue mission was flown by a C-130 Hercules aircraft in the last five years.

The distance provided in the following table is nautical miles from RAF Lyneham to the search and rescue task and not the total distance flown. The duration is that of the actual search and rescue mission.

	Departure location	*Distance NM*	*Duration (hours/mins)*
25 February 2009	RAF Lyneham	545	5 hrs 11 mins

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions life-rafts and survival containers have been deployed during a search and rescue mission by *(a)* C-130 and *(b)* Nimrod MR2 in each of the last three years; and what the (i) distance and (ii) duration of the mission was in each case. [22137]

Nick Harvey: There is no record of this equipment having been deployed by either aircraft during a search and rescue mission over the last three years.

Trident Value For Money Review

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what account his Department took of *(a)* defence inflation, *(b)* unforeseen design risks and *(c)* changes in specification between 2010 and 2016 in identifying cost savings in the Trident value for money review. [20481]

Dr Fox: Projected inflation in relevant sectors was considered and treated in the normal way as part of the value for money work. Due consideration was given to unforeseen design risk and changes in specification through the application of uncertainty margins.

USA: Arms Trade

Mr Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will direct the British Embassy in Washington to amend the remit of any renewed contract for political consultancy services with O'Brien and Associates so as to exclude any requirement to influence procurement decisions. [19187]

Peter Luff: O'Brien and Associates have not been contracted to influence US or UK procurement decisions on behalf of the British embassy. O'Brien and Associates provide specialist advice and information on major US defence equipment programmes and relevant budget issues, principally as they pass through Congress. The current contract expires in December 2010 and the embassy will determine whether these services are required beyond this period. In the event that a new contract is required, the schedule of requirements will continue to exclude any requirement to influence procurement decisions.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Catering

Mr Frank Field: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission, for what reasons the Administration Committee has published a call for specialist advisers for its inquiry into catering services in the House of Commons. [22631]

Sir Stuart Bell: The Commission does not have responsibility for the decisions of the Administration Committee. The hon. Member may wish to write to the Chair of that Committee.

PRIME MINISTER

Childhood and Family Task Force

Jon Trickett: To ask the Prime Minister on how many occasions the Childhood and Family Task Force has met to date; and who attended each such meeting. [22371]

The Prime Minister: The Childhood and Families Task Force was created in June 2010. The role of this group is to identify and prioritise a small number of specific policy proposals that will make the biggest difference to children and families. It is longstanding Government practice not to disclose information relating to ministerial meetings, including the proceedings of the Cabinet and Cabinet committees, as to do so would put at risk the public interest in the full and frank discussion of policy by Ministers.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Prime Minister how much was spent on hospitality for events he hosted in *(a)* September and *(b)* October 2010. [21788]

The Prime Minister: Information on official and charity receptions held at 10 Downing street is published by means of an annual list as soon as it is ready at the end of the financial year.

Economic Policy: EU Action

Mr Carswell: To ask the Prime Minister if he will make it his policy to ensure that any new EU Treaty does not include the UK in the new legal framework referred to in paragraph 34 of the Report of the Task Force to the European Council on Strengthening Economic Governance in the EU. [22284]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 1 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 621.

Human Rights: Burma

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Prime Minister whether he has discussed the human rights situation in Burma with the US President. [20405]

The Prime Minister: The British Government are deeply concerned about the human rights situation in Burma. We regularly urge the military regime to respect the human rights of all Burma's people and discuss these issues with a full range of international partners. I look forward to discussing Burma with President Obama. I know that he shares my concern about the situation there. US and UK officials are in regular and close contact in Washington, including with the White House, and on the ground in Burma. The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon Friend the Member for North East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt) and Assistant Secretary of State, Kurt Campbell, exchanged views on the subject at a meeting of the UN Secretary General's Group of Friends in September. We will continue to work closely with the US in our efforts to bring positive change to Burma.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Location

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he has assessed the merits of relocating his Department's London headquarters to enable the savings made on its running costs to be allocated to overseas development assistance. [21767]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) has two UK headquarters, located in London and East Kilbride. We are transferring 70 posts from our London office to East Kilbride where we have around 500 staff. We will keep under review the potential for further relocations.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each of its Ministers in *(a)* September and *(b)* October 2010. [21785]

Mr Duncan: Ministers have not hosted any events in September or October 2010.

Euromapping 2010

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department will be (i) attending and (ii) speaking at the launch of Euromapping 2010 on 10 November; what (A) direct funding, (B) other support and (C) personnel his Department plans to provide to the launch; whether he plans to impose restrictions on the use of this support; if he will place in the Library a copy of material produced for the launch by his Department; what discussions his Department has had with the Department of Health on the launch; and if he will make a statement. [21944]

Mr O'Brien: No Department for International Development (DFID) Minister will be attending or speaking at the launch of the "Euromapping" 2010 Report on 10 November. DFID participation will be undertaken at official level. DFID has not provided any direct funding, other support or personnel for the launch or produced any material for the launch.

DFID officials have discussed the launch with officials in the Department of Health (DH). No DH Minister is scheduled to attend.

Mental Health

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the recommendations relevant to his Department's policy responsibilities contained in the Foresight Report on Mental Capital and Wellbeing by the Government Office for Science; if he will ensure that his Department takes steps to promote wellbeing; if he will ensure that his Department's policy development process takes account of psychological research into subjective wellbeing; and if he will make a statement. [22201]

Mr O'Brien: The Foresight Project on Mental Capital and Wellbeing focuses on the mental development and mental wellbeing of people in the UK. The recommendations are therefore not directly relevant to the policy responsibilities of the Department for International Development (DFID), which works overseas. However DFID does support interventions that promote mental capital, including nutrition programmes and programmes to prevent and treat diseases such as malaria that can cause cognitive impairment; and research into how mental health policy and services in developing countries can be improved. DFID also has a number of initiatives to promote the wellbeing of its own staff.

NDPBs: Finance

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what procedures his Department follows to examine the audited accounts of non-governmental organisations and other organisations which it funds before making payments to such organisations. [21501]

Mr Duncan: All civil society organisations that the Department for International Development (DFID) funds are required to have audited annual accounts before any funding is provided.

From 2011, DFID also plans to carry out due diligence checks for all organisations selected for funding through its centrally managed funds for civil society before any funding is provided. This will include funding through Programme Partnership Arrangements (PPAs), the Civil Society Challenge Fund (CSCF) and the Global Poverty Action Fund (GPAF). The due diligence checks will assess: the integrity of the organisation's status and objectives; financial status, viability and capacity (including analysis of audited accounts); the technical capacity to undertake the proposed activities; robustness of operational and commercial systems, process and procedures including compliance with policies, laws and regulations; procurement capability, efficiency and cost-effectiveness; and procedures for managing environmental risks.

Audited accounts will continue to be analysed on an annual basis by the fund manager for the duration of the funding period.

Palestinians: Overseas Students

Mark Menzies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what schemes his Department has in place to provide students from United Nations Relief and Works Agency schools in Gaza and the West Bank an opportunity to study at UK universities. [22446]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not have any schemes specifically for students from the west bank and Gaza to study at UK universities. There are, however, two schemes to which Palestinian postgraduate students can apply to study in the UK for further qualifications. The Chevening scholarship scheme funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) provides talented graduates and young professionals from developing countries with the opportunity to develop their leadership skills. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) with the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council fund the Dorothy Hodgkin Postgraduate Awards for outstanding students from the developing world to study for PhDs in high-rated UK research facilities.

St Helena: Airports

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 22 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 46-47WS, on St Helena (access), which alternative funding options his Department considered prior to taking its decision on the funding of an airport on St Helena; against which criteria the decision to provide full public funding from his Department's budget was chosen; and for what reasons alternative options were not chosen. [21828]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) considered one specific private financing proposal that was received in response to the 2009 public consultation on the St Helena airport. We also commissioned an independent review to determine whether there could be any other public private partnership (PPP) approaches that could be appropriate for financing the project.

We were looking for a viable solution that would not only make the project more affordable in the short-term, but also deliver the project more efficiently by transferring risk from DFID to the private sector.

The review concluded that a PPP approach would give limited scope for further risk transfer from the current Design, Build and Operate approach. Although a PPP approach could avoid the need for large up-front Government financing, it would do so on more costly terms, and therefore would be unlikely to deliver further value for money compared to the grant-funded approach.

We want to provide a permanent, economically viable solution to the problem of access to St Helena. Independent analysis has concluded that, providing certain conditions are met, the best long-term solution from an economic and financial perspective for both the UK Government and St Helena is to construct an airport.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing: Construction

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the likely effects on children of the implementation of proposed changes to the budget for social housebuilding. [21708]

Grant Shapps: In the comprehensive spending review we announced almost £4.5 billion investment in new affordable housing to deliver up to 150,000 affordable homes. However, we are giving housing associations much more flexibility on rents and use of assets, and our aspiration is to deliver even more homes through our investment and reforms. We will publish details of how these proposals will work shortly. A further £2 billion will be provided for the Decent Homes programme which will improve the quality of life of those children living in poor quality social housing.

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many affordable homes were built in *(a)* the London borough of Bexley and *(b)* Greater London in each of the last five years. [21754]

Andrew Stunell: The information requested is provided in the following table.

Not all affordable housing is provided through new-build completions as supply can also come from the acquisition and refurbishment of private sector homes. In 2009-10, for example, a total of 280 additional affordable homes were provided in Bexley and 13,570 in London.

	New-build additional affordable homes delivered				
	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Bexley	60	100	250	10	140
London	7,460	10,190	11,090	8,650	9,860

Note:
The data are rounded to the nearest 10 homes.
Source:
Homes and Communities Agency; local authorities.

Affordable Housing: Rural Areas

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent steps he has taken to increase *(a)* the availability of and *(b)* access to affordable housing in rural areas. [21595]

Grant Shapps: In the CSR we announced almost £4.5 billion investment in new affordable housing to deliver up to 150,000 affordable homes. However, we are giving housing associations much more flexibility on rents and use of assets, and our aspiration is to deliver even more homes through our investment and reforms.

On 18 October we called on local planning authorities in rural areas, with high demand for affordable homes, to consider amending their existing planning policies to make it easier for disused farm buildings to be converted into affordable homes. In addition we will be including in the Localism Bill provisions to give local communities new right-to-build powers, enabling them to deliver small-scale development without the need for a separate planning application. By following a simplified neighbourhood planning process, these powers will enable communities to respond quickly to changing development needs.

Anti-Semitism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research his Department has *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* evaluated on the causes of anti-Semitism; when his Department last undertook a review of the evidence relating to (i) the causes of anti-Semitism and (ii) the number of anti-Semitic attacks drawing on (A) UK and (B) international research; and if he will make a statement. [R] [21941]

Andrew Stunell: In the last 18 months the Department for Communities and Local Government funded the European Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism (EISCA) to research and publish a report on Antisemitic Discourse. The Cross-Government working group to tackle anti-Semitism meets on a quarterly basis to discuss and review the evidence emanating from the UK and abroad relating to the causes of anti-Semitism in the UK and regularly reviews the number of anti-Semitic incidents.

Caravan Sites

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to consult on whether local authorities should be able to levy fees in respect of their licensing functions relating to the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960. [22304]

Grant Shapps: The Department has no plans at present to consult on this.

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to consult on proposals to reform the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960 in respect of the management through licensing of standards in residential mobile home and caravan sites. [22305]

Grant Shapps: The Department is looking at a range of measures to help improve the operation and management of those mobile home sites that are poorly managed so as to afford better protection to the residents and the properties they own.

Charity Shops

Simon Danczuk: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether local authorities have powers to regulate the *(a)* number and *(b)* location of charity shops in their areas. [23039]

Robert Neill: Charity shops are not differentiated from other retail outlets for planning purposes. Local authorities will determine the location of shops within their area through the local plan process, which may prescribe zones for retail development. A planning application will need to be submitted to the local authority for a new retail use. Any shop could be converted to a charity shop without the need to apply for planning permission. Charity shops deliver a public benefit by raising funds for worthy causes and putting into use buildings/shops that might otherwise be left empty.

Council Housing: Finance

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the right-to-buy receipts to be retained by the Exchequer in respect of each local authority where housing stock has been retained in the two years following the introduction of such clawback. [21954]

Andrew Stunell: A table showing our records of the amount due from each local authority that still maintained a housing revenue account on 1 April 2004, to the Exchequer in respect of housing capital receipts they received in the financial years 2004-05 and 2005-06—the first two years after capital pooling was introduced—has been placed in the Library of the House. The majority of these receipts would have been from right-to-buy transactions.

The table indicates whether the local authority was debt-free on 31 March 2004, since housing receipts received from those authorities remain with the Secretary of State, while capital receipts from with-debt authorities go direct to the Exchequer and do not directly fund this Department's spending plans.

Departmental Redundancy

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much funding to meet staff redundancy costs was identified in his Department's settlement letter in respect of the comprehensive spending review; [21517]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of redundancies arising from the spending reductions proposed in the comprehensive spending review in respect of

(a) his Department, *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies and *(c)* other public bodies which are dependent on his Department for funding; [21518]

(3) what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of staff redundancy in each of the next four years. [21519]

Greg Clark: The Department for Communities and Local Government spending review settlement will require a 33% reduction in administrative expenditure across the core Department and its arm's length bodies by 2014-15. My Department is also managing the closure of the Government office network with effect from 31 March 2011.

All pressures on Departments' budgets were taken into account as part of the spending review and settlements were allocated accordingly. The full costs of redundancies will be met from within the Department for Communities and Local Government's spending review resource DEL—departmental expenditure—limit settlement.

Determining optimal work force reforms in order to live within the Department for Communities and Local Government's spending review resource DEL settlement will be an ongoing process. Detailed decisions regarding the number of redundancies that may be required have yet to be finalised.

EADS: Lobbying

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the oral evidence taken by the Communities and Local Government Committee on 13 September 2010, HC 453-i, Q109 and Q110, what assessment he has made of the scale of lobbying activity of his Department by EADS; and which public affairs companies have undertaken such lobbying in respect of his Department since his appointment. [21717]

Robert Neill: EADS employs a number of in-house lobbyists. We are aware that EADS has supplemented its resource in this area in recent months by taking on former senior personnel from the fire and rescue sector to lobby for changes to the Government's approach to FiReControl and its relationship with EADS. These efforts include both formal meetings and events, and informal contacts. We are also aware that Good Relations of the Bell Pottinger Group are also undertaking lobbying on behalf of EADS.

I have myself been presented with speculative ideas from EADS that are not in the FiReControl project agreement. However, at the time I made it absolutely clear to EADS that my sole focus for the project was on them delivering the system specified in the project agreement to time, to cost and to quality. To this end, we activated a key milestone in their contract to deliver the main IT system in three control centres by mid-2011. I recommended to EADS that this should be its sole focus on the project too, rather than spending time and money on lobbying.

The FiReControl project, initiated by the last Government, is over-budget and behind schedule. As with all major Government projects it is being reviewed to ensure value for money for the taxpayer. We have been clear that this Government are not prepared to pour any more taxpayers' money into funding EADS's further delays, nor can EADS cut any corners in the quality of the system it delivers. This Government are committed to ensuring value for money for the taxpayer, improving resilience and stopping the forced regionalisation of the fire service.

Fibre Optic Cables: Taxation

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what tax is levied on *(a)* BT and *(b)* other companies in respect of the laying of fibre optic cables. [22309]

Robert Neill: BT and other telecom companies are liable for non-domestic rates in respect of any rateable property, including fibre optic cable networks, which they occupy or, if the property is empty, own.

Fire Services: Emergency Calls

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in respect of how many incidents involving Chinese lanterns fire crews were called out in each of the last five years. [22294]

Robert Neill: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Data are recorded only for broader decorations categories and these available data are shown in the table.

Under the previous system of reporting fires, which ended in March 2009, decorations and Christmas trees were a single category (page 48 of the "Fire Data Report Code List (version 5)").

Since 1 April 2009, fire incidents have been recorded using the new Incident Recording System (IRS) in which decorations/cards, and Christmas trees are separate categories (page 75 of "Incident Recording System Questions and Lists (version 1.1)").

Copies of both documents are available in the Library of the House.

Accidental dwelling fires where decorations (includes Christmas trees) where the item first ignited, England, 2005 to 2009-10[1]

England	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*April 2009-March 2010*[1]
Decorations including Christmas trees	91	109	127	78	65
Decorations/cards	—	—	—	—	47
Christmas trees	—	—	—	—	18

[1] Provisional

Fire Services: Finance

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will publish his proposed reductions in fire authority budgets in cash terms. [21703]

Robert Neill: Fire and Rescue Authorities set their own budgets. The Department does not publish information on proposed reductions to budgets but publishes data collected from all local authorities on budget estimates for England in statistical releases for local authority revenue expenditure and financing, which are reported in cash terms. The latest revenue budget estimates for 2010-11 are published in the "Local Authority Revenue Expenditure and Financing England 2010-11 Budget" which is available on the Department for Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/revenue201011budget

Fire Services: North East

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the work of Cleveland Fire Authority on local fire control arrangements. [21704]

Robert Neill: Under section 7 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004, all fire and rescue authorities have a statutory duty to make arrangements for dealing with calls for help and for mobilising resources. Decisions about control rooms are a matter for individual fire and rescue authorities.

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department undertook a risk assessment in relation to industrial accidents when formulating its proposals for a reduction in the budget of Cleveland Fire Authority. [21996]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government is responsible for distributing central Government funding across the fire and rescue service in England. However individual fire and rescue authority budgets are made up of a number of elements in addition to central Government funding and all fire and rescue authority budgets are set by the individual authority, not by Government.

I also refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 25 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 88-89W, outlining how fire and rescue authorities can make savings without impacting on the quality or breadth of services offered to their communities.

Fire Services: Rural Areas

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will take account of *(a)* emergency response times for rural fire authorities and *(b)* the geographic spread of populations when making decisions on fire authority budgets. [21695]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government is responsible for distributing central Government funding across the fire and rescue service in England. However individual fire and rescue authority budgets are made up of a number of elements in addition to central Government funding and all fire and rescue authority budgets are set by the individual authority, not by Government.

Housing: Energy

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of homes in England which had residual current devices in place in the latest period for which figures are available. [22036]

Andrew Stunell: DCLG's "English Housing Survey—Housing Stock Report 2008", published in October 2010, estimates that 13,244,000 dwellings in England (59% of all dwellings) had residual current devices. By sector the percentages with residual current devices were:

	Percentage
Owner occupied	56
Private rented	57
Local authority	70
Housing association	75

The 2008 English Housing Survey can be viewed at:

www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/pdf/1750754.pdf

Housing: Sales

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has made a recent estimate of the average time taken to complete a purchase on a residential property. [22404]

Andrew Stunell: No such estimate has been made, and central Government do not collect or hold data on time taken to complete a purchase on a residential property.

Local Development Frameworks

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what timetable he has set for his review of the local development framework system. [22878]

Robert Neill: The Government are committed to reforming the planning system as set out in Open Source Planning. Proposals to change processes for producing local development frameworks will be contained in the Localism Bill which we hope to publish shortly.

Local Government Finance

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government from which local authorities he has received representations on the treatment by the Homes and Communities Agency of local authority borrowing requests in its determination of grant funding. [21952]

Andrew Stunell: The Department received representations from Southwark council regarding the treatment of local authority borrowing in the determination of grant funding for the local authority new build programme.

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to make a single announcement in respect of homelessness grant funding allocations to local authorities for all years of the spending review period; and if he will make a statement. [22119]

Grant Shapps: Over £400 million over the spending review period will be made available to local authorities and the voluntary sector through homelessness grant to tackle homelessness. Detailed allocations for local authorities will be published in December alongside the provisional local government settlement for 2011-12.

This Government are committed to tackling and preventing homelessness. I have already established a new cross-Government working group on homelessness bringing together Ministers from eight Government Departments to address the complex causes of homelessness and rough sleeping.

Ordnance Survey

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to sell Ordnance Survey in *(a)* part and *(b)* whole. [22285]

Robert Neill: Ordnance Survey is Great Britain's national mapping agency and its data underpin the delivery of many vital public services. Ministers are not currently considering changes to its ownership.

Public Footpaths: Maps

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether members of the public will be able to *(a)* inspect and *(b)* copy definitive footpath maps held by local authorities under the terms of the new Public Sector Mapping Agreement. [20510]

Robert Neill: The Public Sector Mapping Agreement covers the use of Ordnance Survey mapping information by public sector bodies in England and Wales. Members of the public will continue to be able to inspect definitive footpath maps held by local authorities, where these maps are based on Ordnance Survey data, under the terms of the new Public Sector Mapping Agreement.

Local authorities may produce copies of the definitive map where doing so is required to facilitate a surveying authority's duty to allow inspection of the definitive map, as set out in Section 57 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Members of the public will be able to take printed hard copies of definitive maps held by local authorities and based on Ordnance Survey data for personal and private use. Copying will be subject to the obligations on local authorities within the PSMA relating to sublicensing and commercial distribution, and subject to each print carrying an appropriate statement concerning the scope of permitted use. The wording of this statement will be provided to local authorities as part of the process of implementing the Public Sector Mapping Agreement.

Recreation Spaces

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent steps he has taken to promote the creation of community recreational spaces; and if he will make a statement. [22131]

Andrew Stunell: The Department's Structural Reform Plan includes the coalition Government's commitment to bringing forward a new designation to protect green areas of particular importance to local communities.

Government's key role in building the big society is about bringing power back to local level. We are therefore funding the Asset Transfer Unit to develop practical guidance for community groups wishing to take on the management of their local public space, which could be used for recreational purposes. We anticipate this guidance will be published later in November. We are also including proposals in the forthcoming Localism Bill, which will give communities greater opportunities to identify and bid for assets, including recreational spaces that are important to them, and through the new neighbourhood plans system, help preserve open spaces of local significance.

The Department continues to support community use of urban green space, which involves a diverse range of recreational activities. The Green Flag Award scheme, currently funded by this Department, demonstrates some good uses of community recreational space. This year's winners were announced on 18 July and are featured on the scheme's website.

Repossession Orders: West Midlands

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent steps he has taken to reduce the number of home repossessions in *(a)* Coventry and *(b)* the west midlands. [22124]

Andrew Stunell: The coalition Government have acted decisively to tackle the record deficit and avoid the need for rapid increases in interest rates. There are a range of measures in place to help people struggling to pay their mortgage. These include access to free advice, support for mortgage interest (paid by the Department for Work and Pensions to unemployed homeowners), Homeowners Mortgage Support, and the Mortgage Rescue Scheme which enables the most vulnerable homeowners at risk of repossession to remain in their homes. These provisions are nationwide and not particular to Coventry or the west midlands. In July 2010, the Minister for Housing and Local Government announced changes to the Mortgage Rescue Scheme to secure better value for money, with a reduction in the grant rate paid to housing associations and tighter caps on property price and repair costs for new applications.

Right to Buy Scheme

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* social and *(b)* local authority-owned homes were sold under the right-to-buy scheme in each of the last four years; and how many such sales he expects to occur in each of the next four years. [21894]

Andrew Stunell: Information on the number of local authority and registered provider right-to-buy housing sales in England can be found in Table 2 of "Social Housing Sales to Sitting Tenants, England 2009-10":

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/doc/17207661.doc

The level of future sales under the right to buy scheme will be determined by the number of successful applications received from tenants.

Social Rented Housing

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the average rent in cash terms that would constitute 80 per cent. of market rents in each local authority area. [22610]

Grant Shapps: We will publish more detail on the implementation of new 'affordable rent' tenure shortly.

Social Rented Housing: Evictions

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many tenants of *(a)* council houses and *(b)* housing association properties were evicted on the grounds of rent arrears in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [22333]

Andrew Stunell: Information on tenants of council housing is not available.

Information on evictions from housing association housing is collected in terms of the number of households (rather than tenants). Information is collected by the Tenant Services Authority on their annual Regulatory and Statistical Return survey. Data are from housing associations that completed the long version of the Regulatory and Statistical Return survey and made a valid return, which in general includes those housing associations that own or manage 1,000 or more dwellings and/or bed spaces, including shared ownership dwellings. An eviction is a tenancy brought to an end by a court order and the execution of a bailiffs' warrant. Eviction does not include abandonment, even where a property is abandoned in the period between a court order being granted and a warrant being obtained or executed. The following table shows figures for the last three years:

Housing association evictions by reason, 2007-08 to 2009-10

		Reason for eviction			
	Total evictions	*Rent arrears*	*Antisocial behaviour (ASB)*	*Both rent arrears and ASB*	*Other*
2007-08	11,354	8,391	1,626	455	882
2008-09	11,230	8,456	1,518	250	1,006
2009-10	9,905	7,535	1,309	214	847

Note:

Information from housing associations are from those that completed the long version of the RSR and made a valid return, which in general includes those housing associations that own or manage 1,000 or more dwellings and/or bed spaces, including shared ownership dwellings.

Source:

Regulatory and Statistical Return (RSR) survey 2010 (collected by the Tenant Services Authority)

The Ministry of Justice collect data on the number of evictions carried out by county court bailiffs for social landlords. An eviction is where a county court bailiff will have successfully been able to gain possession of a property following an order given by a judge. Eviction does not include abandonment, even where a property is abandoned in the period between a court order being granted and a warrant being obtained or executed. The reasons for eviction are not collected. The following table shows figures for the last three years:

County courts (enforcement work). Number of evictions[1] of social landlord properties by county court bailiffs[2] in England[3], 2006-07 to 2008-09

Financial year	*Social landlord evictions (number)*
2006-07	20,881
2007-08	19,406
2008-09	19,055

[1] The vast majority of warrant of eviction outcomes are eviction, the warrant being suspended by an order made by the court and the warrant being withdrawn.

[2] Includes warrants issued in the County Court Bulk Centre and via Possession Claim Online.

[3] Includes only warrants that have been executed in a county court that are in England.

Source:

HMCS CaseMan system and Possession Claim Online

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the legal costs incurred by *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* housing associations for eviction proceedings against tenants who were in rent arrears in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [22334]

Andrew Stunell: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Squatting

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward legislative proposals to require local authorities to report to his Department annually on the number of properties in their locality that are occupied by squatters; what recent discussions *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have had with local authorities on squatters; and if he will make a statement. [21934]

Andrew Stunell: We have no plans to introduce a requirement for local authorities to report the number of properties occupied by squatters. No discussions have taken place with local authorities. However, we will be taking steps to help get empty homes back into productive and lawful use, reducing the scope for squatting. We are also providing more guidance to home owners on their legal rights against illegal squatting on their property.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department has issued to local authorities on managing squatters in each of the last three years; what guidance his Department plans to issue in the next year; and if he will make a statement. [22006]

Grant Shapps: The Department has not issued any guidance to local authorities on managing squatters but has today made available on the DCLG website advice to home owners affected by squatters at:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/advicesquatters

Temporary Accommodation

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate he has made of the cost to each local authority of provision of bed-and-breakfast accommodation for homeless *(a)* individuals and *(b)* families. [21951]

Grant Shapps: The latest available local authority revenue outturn estimates are published at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/revenue200809finaloutturn

I have today placed in the Library of the House a table giving details of the cost of provision of bed-and-breakfast accommodation by each local authority in England in 2008-09.

A breakdown of costs by household type is not held centrally. Quarterly homelessness statistics, including number of households in bed-and-breakfast accommodation by local authority, are published by the Department on the DCLG website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/publicationshomelessness/

Under homelessness legislation that applies to England, bed-and-breakfast accommodation cannot be used by a local housing authority to discharge a duty to secure accommodation for applicants who are pregnant, or whose household includes a pregnant woman or a dependant child, unless no other accommodation is available for their occupation, and then for no more than six weeks in aggregate.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts: Finance

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) how much Arts Council England has spent on projects in North East Cambridgeshire constituency in each of the last three years; [22508]

(2) what estimate he has made of the Arts Council funding allocated per head in *(a)* the highest receiving region, *(b)* the lowest receiving region and *(c)* in North East Cambridgeshire constituency in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [22562]

Mr Vaizey: The Department does not collate this information centrally.

Accordingly I have asked the chief executive of Arts Council England to respond to the hon. Member for North East Cambridgeshire directly.

A copy of the responses will be placed in the Library of both Houses.

BBC: Commonwealth Games 2014

Ian Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Scottish Executive, *(b)* Glasgow city council and *(c)* Commonwealth Games Scotland about the financial effects of the BBC's decision to withdraw as host broadcaster of the 2014 Commonwealth Games; and if he will make a statement. [22618]

Mr Vaizey: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport has not had any discussions with the Scottish Government, Glasgow city council or Commonwealth Games Scotland on this matter.

BBC: Religion

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with the BBC Trust on the BBC's Charter obligations in respect of reporting on religious affairs; and if he will make a statement. [22512]

Mr Vaizey: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport has not had any discussions with the BBC Trust on this matter.

Broadband

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions his Department has had on equivalence in access to broadband services. [21436]

Mr Vaizey: I have been asked to reply in my capacity as a Minister in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

This Department has regular discussions with telecoms providers and Ofcom on a wide range of issues aimed at ensuring that the UK has an open and competitive market for broadband services. BT's undertakings require them to offer equal access and they formed an "Equality of Access Board" on 1 November 2005 which adjudicates on any issues that might be raised in this connection by competitive providers.

Departmental Redundancy

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have been offered enhanced early retirement packages in each of the last three years. [22020]

John Penrose: The total number of staff who were offered early retirement packages and left the Department is shown in the following table.

Financial year	*Total number of staff*
2007-08	5
2008-09	2
2009-10	4

The Department does not collate this information for our agency, the Royal Parks.

Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of the Royal Parks to respond to the hon. Member for Shipley directly.

A copy of the response will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Horse Racing: Betting

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effect on the revenue received from the Horserace Betting Levy of bookmakers moving all or part of their operations offshore. [21248]

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) whether his Department plans to reform the Horserace Betting Levy to take account of the relocation of British bookmakers that have moved all or part of their operation overseas; [21851]

(2) whether his Department has made an assessment of the level of funding that would be raised each year in circumstances in which offshore bookmakers that place bets on British horseracing contributed to the Horserace Betting Levy. [21852]

John Penrose: I have received advice from the Horserace Betting Levy Board about securing fair contributions from overseas operators towards the Horserace Betting Levy.

I am currently considering this advice and expect to make a further announcement in due course.

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the potential effect on the revenue received from the Horserace Betting Levy of the threshold rules that exempt more than 60 per cent. of betting shops from paying the full rate of levy. [21249]

John Penrose: I have met representatives of the Horserace Betting Levy Board, racing and bookmaking industries, to discuss all the issues with the levy, and seek suggestions about how the levy might be improved or, if possible, suitably replaced.

No decisions have been taken yet and I will continue to discuss the options to ensure that funding for racing is fair, and collected from as broad a base as possible.

Horserace Totalisator Board

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he expects a proportion of the proceeds from the sale of the Tote to be used to support the horseracing industry; and if he will make a statement. [22240]

John Penrose: Over the coming months, the Government will look to resolve the future of the Tote in a way that secures value for the taxpayer while recognising the support that the Tote currently provides the racing industry. A decision on whether and how to use the value which is realised cannot be made until the precise structure of a final deal has been agreed.

Music: Finance

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the monetary value of overseas earnings attributable to the music industry in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009; and what proportion of GDP this represented in each such year. [20914]

John Penrose: Information is not collected by the Government on the monetary value of overseas earnings attributable to the music industry, but the UK remains the third largest market in the world for sales of music behind USA and Japan, and sales in the UK amounted to 10.0% of all music sold globally in 2008.

The BPI estimates that British artists account for as much as 15% of the global music market. In 2009, UK artists accounted for 10% of artist albums sold in the US, and 13.4% in Canada. They also fared well in Germany and France (the fourth and fifth biggest markets in the world), accounting respectively for 22.2% and 15.9% of artist album sales in 2008.

In 2006, the Creative and Cultural Skills Council reported that the music industry contributed £6 billion to the UK economy.

Olympic Games 2012: Children

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to ensure that schoolchildren in areas outside London have the opportunity fully to participate in preparations for the London 2012 Olympics. [22410]

Hugh Robertson: The London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) official London 2012 education programme Get Set is the primary way for schools, colleges and other learning institutions, including Playing for Success Centres across the UK, to play their part in the London 2012 Games. Currently 15,166 schools and colleges are registered with Get Set, involving 2 million students. 13,281 are outside of London.

In partnership with the Department for Education, the Department are creating an Olympic and Paralympic style school sport competition, allowing children in schools across the country to experience the incredible inspiration of the games.

There are a number of initiatives in this area that use the power of the games to inspire young people across the country. The London 2012 Inspire Programme provides a way for community projects and events genuinely inspired by the games to be awarded the 'Inspire Mark', a non-commercial version of the London 2012 brand. Many of these projects involve young people across sport, culture, education and volunteering. 2,444 events have been held as part of London 2012 Open Weekend in communities across the UK in 2008, 2009 and most recently July 2010 to mark 2 Years To Go, with many young people taking part in the run-up to the games. 1,000 Young Ambassadors have been recruited together with the Youth Sports Trust to promote 2012 and sport in schools to their peers. LOCOG is also responsible for the volunteering programme at the games, and will launch a Young Games Maker programme especially for under 18s in summer 2011.

Departmental Redundancy

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of redundancies arising from the spending reductions proposed in the comprehensive spending review in respect of *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies and *(c)* other public bodies which are dependent on his Department for funding. [21521]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: In response to the spending review settlement the Department for Culture, Media and Sport has committed to a reduction of its administration costs by 50% over the period of the spending review, as set out in my published ministerial written statement, 21 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 59-70WS. As yet, no estimated number of redundancies has been settled on. Some reductions to the Department's administration costs will come through reducing accommodation and other non-pay costs, and the Department hopes to achieve a substantial proportion of reductions to staff costs through normal staff turnover.

The Department has not made an estimate of the number of redundancies within its non-departmental public bodies or other public bodies which are dependent on departmental funding. Any such decisions will need to be taken by the bodies themselves in the light of their spending review settlement.

S4C: Wales

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will take steps to ensure that S4C retains full programming independence following the implementation of a system for new independent funding. [22303]

Mr Vaizey: The Government are committed to the future of S4C as an independent service, retaining its editorial independence. The details of how S4C's independence will be safeguarded in its partnership with the BBC Trust are currently being developed.

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the contribution of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State of 20 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 319-22WH, what steps he plans to take to ensure that dedicated funding for S4C is retained under the new funding model. [22085]

Mr Vaizey: The future funding of S4C was set out by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, in his letter of 20 October to the Chair of the Welsh Authority.

From 2013-14, the cost of funding S4C will be met from a combination of continued Exchequer funding, advertising revenue and the television licence fee.

The funding figures are as follows.

£ million

	Total funding	*From DCMS*	*From BBC*
2011-12	90	90	0
2012-13	83	83	0
2013-14	83	6.7	76.3
2014-15	83	7	76

This means that S4C funding is secure for the next four years and will enable the channel to structure itself for the modern broadcasting environment.

This letter can be found using the link:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/publications/Jones_SC4.pdf

EDUCATION

Academies

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he expects Rainham Mark Grammar School to be able to apply for academy status. [18655]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 21 October 2010]:* We want the benefits which academy status brings to be available to many more schools. Currently only those schools judged as outstanding by Ofsted can apply to convert to become academies, and fifty-seven schools have opened as academies via this route since 1 September 2010. Other schools can register an interest in converting through the Department for Education's website at

http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/
typesofschools/academies/register

and I would encourage Rainham Mark Grammar School to register its interest, if it has not already done so. An announcement will be made shortly about when the next group of schools will be invited to apply.

Academies: Music

Joseph Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the effects of implementation of the Academies Act 2010 on core funding for *(a)* Bromley Music Trust and *(b)* other independent music services funded through top-slicing of local authority education budgets. [18036]

Mr Gibb: No decisions about central funding for music education have been made in respect of Bromley or any other local authority. The overall level of funding for music education will be decided after the Spending Review settlement. On 24 September the Secretary of State announced that he had asked Darren Henley to carry out a review of music education and to report his conclusions towards the end of this year.

Children: Carers

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department's proposed regulations and guidance in respect of the duty to provide breaks from caring under section 25 of the Children and Young Person's Act will include a requirement for local authorities to a *(a)* conduct a multi-agency needs assessment and *(b)* provide evidence that they are meeting the terms of the full service offer on an annual basis. [16947]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 13 October 2010]:* It had previously been intended that breaks for carers of disabled children would be assessed and published as part of the Children and Young People's Plan arrangements. The proposed regulations in respect of the duty to provide breaks from caring for carers of disabled children are currently being redrafted to take into account changes to the Children and Young People's Plan.

Contact Orders

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what progress the Children and Families Task Force has made towards providing greater access rights to non-resident parents and grandparents when couples separate. [17537]

Tim Loughton: The provision of greater access rights to non-resident parents and grandparents when couples separate will not be examined by the Children and Families Task Force. The question of child access rights following family separation is currently being considered by the Family Justice Review. The Review panel is due to produce an interim report in March 2011, which will be the subject of a public consultation. A final report is due to be published in autumn 2011.

Departmental Press: Subscriptions

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department and its predecessors spent on newspapers, periodicals and trade profession magazines in each year since 1997. [16230]

Tim Loughton: The Department, as a whole, spent £163,329 on journals between 2002 and 2004, which is outlined in Table A. Since 2004, the Department's Knowledge Management Team has spent a total of £346,331 on newspapers, periodicals and trade profession magazines, which is outlined in Table B. Individual teams in the Department have the option to subscribe to periodicals if they wish; however, to extract this information would involve disproportionate cost, as would going back before 2002.

Table A

	Journals (£)
2002-03	84,639
2003-04	78,690
Total	163,329

Table B

	Journals	*Newspapers*	£ *Total spend*
2004-05	52,797	12,970	65,766
2005-06	65,960	11,230	77,190
2006-07	54,967	6,476	61,443
2007-08	28,391	8,775	37,166
2008-09	54,441	8,084	62,525
2009-10	36,709	5,532	42,241
Total	293,265	53,066	346,331

Departmental Responsibilities

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department's Children's Rights and Participation team has provided briefings to Ministers or officials in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Department of Health, *(c)* the Ministry of Justice and *(d)* the Home Department on the Government's obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child since 12 May 2010. [17435]

Sarah Teather: The Government are committed to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Since May 2010, the Children's Rights and Participation team has provided briefings to Ministers in the Department for Education on the Government's obligations under the UNCRC, and has regular dialogue with officials across Whitehall Departments including the Department of Health, Ministry of Justice and the Home Office.

Departmental Written Questions

Kevin Brennan: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what percentage of named day written parliamentary questions tabled to his Department in the present Session for answer on or before 2 November 2010 had not received a substantive answer by 3 November 2010. [22685]

Tim Loughton: There were 70 unanswered named day PQs tabled on or before 2 November that were due for reply on or before 3 November. This is 27% of all named day PQs received during this session.

Environment Protection: Curriculum

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how he plans to ensure children in *(a)* academies, *(b)* free schools and *(c)* maintained schools have a broad and balanced education, including environmental education, under his plans for the future of the school curriculum. [17306]

Mr Gibb: Academies are not required to follow the national curriculum because we believe that having flexibility in their curriculum design, within a broad and balanced context, is a core freedom which is at the heart of the academies programme. Free schools will have the same legal requirements as academies and will enjoy the same freedoms, including the ability to determine their own curriculum.

The planned review of the national curriculum, which will particularly impact on maintained schools, is intended to restore it to a core entitlement based on subject knowledge and informed by international best practice. More details about our plans for the review will be announced later in the year.

Foster Care

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to publish his response to the consultation on family and friends care guidance. [17173]

Tim Loughton: The intention is to publish the response to the consultation on Family and Friends guidance by the end of the calendar year 2010.

Free School Meals: Gateshead

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many pupils in Gateshead constituency are in receipt of free school meals in *(a)* primary, *(b)* secondary and *(c)* special schools. [19365]

Mr Gibb: Information on free school meal eligibility is shown in the table. This includes full-time pupils aged 0 to 15 and part-time pupils aged five to 15.

Information on the take up of free school meals has not been provided because it is not possible to exclude pupils who are below or over compulsory school age and far fewer of these claim for and take free school meals.

Maintained primary[1], state-funded secondary[1] [2] and special[3] schools: School meal arrangements[4] As at January 2010 in Gateshead parliamentary constituency and England

	Gateshead parliamentary constituency			*England*		
	Number on roll[5]	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[4]*	*Percentage known to be eligible for free school meals*	*Number on roll[5]*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[4]*	*Percentage known to be eligible for free school meals*
Maintained primary[1]	5,890	1,790	30.3	3,831,470	709,370	18.5
State-funded secondary[2]	3,660	830	22.7	2,864,350	441,140	15.4
Special schools[3]	280	120	44.9	78,330	27,330	34.9

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.
[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.
[4] Pupils eligible for free school meals who have full-time attendance and are aged 15 or under, or pupils who have part-time attendance and are aged between five and 15.
[5] Includes pupils who have full-time attendance and are aged 15 or under, or pupils who have part-time attendance and are aged between five and 15.

Note:
Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

Free Schools

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many applications to establish a free school he has received. [15866]

Mr Gibb: We have received over 100 free schools applications, 16 of which have been approved to progress to the business case and plan stage. Details of the approved proposals can be found on the Department's website at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/news/news/wms-freeschoolsproposals

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many applications to establish free schools his Department has received from groups in the West Midlands. [18006]

Mr Gibb: To date the Department has received 16 proposals to set up free schools from groups in the West Midlands.

Free Schools: Disability

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent representations he has received on the adequacy of resources to be provided for disabled children in proposed free schools. [18084]

Mr Gibb: No representations have been received specifically on this matter. Free schools will be required to comply with the Equality Act 2010 which includes a prohibition on disability discrimination. As such, free schools will be required to make reasonable adjustments to cater for the needs of children with disabilities and will not be able to discriminate against disabled pupils.

A number of proposals have been received to set up free schools either wholly or partly catering for children with special educational needs and disabilities.

GCSE: GCE A-level

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment his Department has made of the merits of *(a)* modular and *(b)* terminal examinations at (i) GCSE and (ii) A-level. [18942]

Mr Gibb: The Government are determined to restore GCSEs and A levels to their proper place as valued and robust qualifications, which measure up against the most rigorous in the world, and to ensure that A levels prepare students properly for higher education. We will carefully assess the impact of the new A levels introduced in 2008, and the modular GCSEs introduced in 2009, on standards and on the continuing fitness for purpose of these vital examinations. Many universities think that students should have more time to study subjects in depth to prepare them for higher education, and we will establish new arrangements for developing GCSEs and A levels which give universities and learned societies a much stronger say in their design. We will announce our detailed proposals later in the year.

Home Education

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on home education; and if he will make a statement. [19203]

Mr Gibb: The Government respect the right of parents to educate their children at home. We recognise that most home educating parents do a very good job, some of them picking up the pieces where their children have had problems at school.

We have not yet been able to consider in detail the policy for home education. We will consider whether changes need to be made to the existing arrangements, given the strong views expressed by both home educators and local authorities.

Languages: Education

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on the compulsory teaching of a modern foreign language. [19991]

Mr Gibb: The Government believe that learning a language is important to the social and economic future of the country and to help children understand the world in which they live. We will be announcing more details about a review of the National Curriculum later this year. This review will consider the status of languages at both primary and secondary level. We plan to consult a wide range of academics, teachers and other interested parties to ensure that our core curriculum can compare with those of the highest performing countries in the world.

On 6 September, in a speech at Westminster Academy, the Secretary of State announced an English Baccalaureat, to include a modern or ancient language as one of the core academic subjects that children should learn at GCSE level, along with English, maths, science and a humanity subject. Detailed proposals will be announced later this year.

Literacy: Primary Education

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the *(a)* effectiveness in increasing levels of literacy and *(b)* long-term benefits to the economy of the Every Child a Reader scheme. [20067]

Mr Gibb: The evidence available suggests the Every Child a Reader (ECaR) programme has a positive effect on attainment at key stages 1 and 2. However, the programme is currently undergoing a robust independent evaluation, to report late in 2010 or early in 2011, which will give a substantive view of its impact. The report will, of course, be made available publicly.

As a Government, we are very aware of the benefits of achieving a good standard in literacy at a young age and are therefore strongly committed to improving attainment levels in literacy and ensuring that no child falls behind. To support this aim, we will be strengthening the use of systematic synthetic phonics in teaching children to read. This will be backed up by a new age six reading test.

Offences against Children: Haringey

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what cost has been incurred by *(a)* Ofsted and *(b)* his Department on legal proceedings related to Sharon Shoesmith. [16138]

Tim Loughton: I understand from Her Majesty's Chief Inspector that Ofsted has incurred costs of £331,059 including payments to the Treasury Solicitor, counsel's fees and VAT. Ofsted has incurred other in-house staffing costs which are not readily identifiable.

The Department has so far incurred costs of £92,753.09 (including VAT) in respect of representation in the legal proceedings by the Treasury Solicitor, plus a further £57,425.25 (including VAT) in respect of Counsel. The Department has incurred other costs which are not readily identifiable, resulting from the involvement of in-house lawyers and policy officials.

In a ruling published on 1 September 2010, the judge indicated that he proposed to order Ms Shoesmith to pay £25,000 (including VAT) towards the Secretary of State's costs. He also indicated that he would grant Ms Shoesmith permission to appeal his judgment. The position on costs may change depending on the outcome of any appeal.

Ofsted: Complaints

Mr Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many complaints Ofsted received through its complaints procedure in the latest year for which figures are available; how many such complaints were *(a)* at Stage 1, *(b)* at Stage 2 and *(c)* referred to the Independent Complaints Adjudication Service for Ofsted; and to how many such complaints Ofsted responded within (i) 25 working days at Stage 1 and (ii) 20 working days at Stage 2. [16662]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to my hon. Friend and a copy of her reply will be placed in the Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 13 October 2010:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

In order to provide the most up-to-date information, I have interpreted your request for the figures in the latest available year to run from 1 October 2009 to 30 September 2010. The figures you request are set out in three tables at the end of this letter.

Table A details the total number of stage 1 complaints about our work in this period and the number we responded to within 20 working days of receipt. Prior to 1 September 2010 and so for the majority of the period you have requested information on, our timescale for response was 20 working days from receipt of the complaint. As a result, we monitored our performance against this standard and so Table A has been compiled using this target deadline. I hope this is acceptable, but please do not hesitate to contact me further if you want the 25 day figure specifically. Following public consultation and the introduction of our new complaints process earlier this year, we now make a telephone call to the complainant to clarify the detail and assess the type and scope of the complaint in the first five days after we receive the complaint. We now aim to provide a substantive response to complainants within 20 working days of the initial contact telephone call, or within 25 working days of receipt of the complaint, whichever is earlier. The timescale for the investigation begins the day after the telephone call with the complainant or six working days after the complaint was received if no contact has been made.

Table B shows the total number of complaints about our work in this period that progressed to stage 2 and the number to which we responded within 20 working days of receipt of the stage 2 request from the complainant. The number of complaints is approximately 10% of the complaints received at stage 1.

Table C shows the total number of complaints that progressed to the Independent Complaints Adjudication Service for Ofsted in the last year. This figure represents approximately 2% of complaints received at stage one.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Nick Gibb MP, Minister of State for Schools.

Table A—Stage 1 complaints

	Number of complaints	*Completed in 20-day target*
1 October 2009 to 30 September 2010	1,713	1,360

Table B—Stage 2 complaints

	Number of complaints	*Completed in 20-day target*
1 October 2009 to 30 September 2010	205	131

Table C—Complaints to the Independent Complaints Adjudication Service for Ofsted

	Number of complaints
1 October 2009 to 30 September 2010	41

Pupil Exclusions

Simon Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls eligible for free school meals were given (i) permanent and (ii) fixed-period exclusions in each of the last five years in (A) Norfolk, (B) Norwich South constituency and (C) England [19124]

Mr Gibb: Information for 2006/07, 2007/08 and 2008/09 is shown in the table.

To provide information for further years would incur disproportionate cost.

Primary, secondary and special schools[1] [2] [3]: Number and percentage of pupil enrolments receiving one or more fixed period exclusions or a permanent exclusion by gender for children eligible for free school meals, 2006/07 to 2008/09

	Boys		Girls		Total	
	Number of pupil enrolments eligible for free school meals[4]	Percentage of school population[5]	Number of pupil enrolments eligible for free school meals[4]	Percentage of school population[5]	Number of pupil enrolments eligible for free school meals[4]	Percentage of school population[5]
Permanent exclusions[6]						
England						
2006/07	2,510	0.44	690	0.13	3,210	0.28
2007/08	2,380	0.42	680	0.13	3,050	0.28
2008/09	1,900	0.33	590	0.11	2,480	0.22
Norfolk						
2006/07	30	0.46	10	0.11	40	0.29
2007/08	30	0.40	10	0.10	30	0.25
2008/09	20	0.35	10	0.19	40	0.27
Norwich South						
2006/07	10	0.70	[7]—	[7]—	10	0.47
2007/08	[7]—	[7]—	[7]—	[7]—	10	0.27
2008/09	10	0.50	[7]—	[7]—	10	0.33
Fixed period exclusions						
England						
2006/07	48,960	8.50	18,750	3.40	67,720	6.01
2007/08	44,790	7.99	17,300	3.22	62,090	5.66
2008/09	44,100	7.73	16,950	3.09	61,040	5.45
Norfolk						
2006/07	560	8.11	230	3.49	790	5.86
2007/08	450	7.03	150	2.43	600	4.77
2008/09	490	7.27	210	3.22	690	5.28
Norwich South						
2006/07	70	5.50	30	2.77	100	4.17
2007/08	60	5.50	20	1.92	80	3.78
2008/09	40	3.90	10	1.29	60	2.63

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.

[3] Includes maintained special and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.

[4] Free school meal eligibility as at the time of the January School Census for each year. [5] The number of pupil enrolments who received exclusions expressed as a percentage of the number (headcount) of all pupils (excluding dually registered pupils) in January of each year.

[6] Figures relating to permanent exclusions are estimates based on incomplete pupil-level data.

[7] Fewer than 5 pupils.

Note:

Totals may not appear to equal the sum of component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census.

Schools: Lancashire

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many applications he has received to set up new schools in East Lancashire. [17461]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 14 October 2010]:* The Department for Education has received one proposal to set up a new free school in East Lancashire.

Schools: Rotherham

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent representations he has received on the status of Brinsworth Comprehensive School in Rotherham; and if he will make a statement. [16076]

Mr Gibb: My right hon. Friend has received no representations regarding the status of Brinsworth comprehensive school. He has approved its change of status to an academy from 1 October 2010.

Schools: Vocational Training

Andrew Bridgen: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent representations he has received on duplication in schools of vocational training provided by further educational colleges; and if he will make a statement. [17757]

Mr Gibb: My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Education asked Professor Alison Wolf to carry out an independent review of vocational education. Professor Wolf will consider the organisation, funding and target audience for vocational education, and the principles that should underpin the content, structure and teaching methods. She will report in spring 2011, and her findings will inform future developments to improve the standard of vocational education for 14 to 19-year-olds.

Sixth Form Education

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) whether his Department provides guidance to schools and colleges on a minimum number of teaching hours per subject for sixth form students; [18092]

(2) by what mechanisms his Department estimates the average number of weekly teaching hours sixth form students receive per subject. [18093]

Mr Gibb: *[holding answer 21 October 2010]:* The Department does not issue guidance to schools and sixth form colleges on a minimum number of teaching hours per subject for sixth form students, nor does it estimate the average weekly teaching hours sixth form students receive per subject. It is for institutions themselves to decide how much time they allocate to teaching in each subject for each group of students.

Awarding organisations present information on guided learning hours in their accredited specifications. These provide a guide to the total amount of time, whether as a fixed number of hours or a range, which the average student will need to complete the full qualification, and are based on a professional judgement of what is reasonable in each case.

Special Educational Needs: Finance

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the future funding of special educational needs. [19990]

Sarah Teather: The Government published a consultation on 26 July proposing arrangements for funding schools in 2011-12, including for pupils with special educational needs or disabilities. The responses to the consultation are being considering currently. Further announcements on the future funding arrangements for pupils with special educational needs will be made in the Schools White Paper and in the Green Paper on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, which we expect to publish later this year.

Specialist Schools: Finance

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many schools his Department initially designated as specialist schools as a result of the most recent round of applications. [[illegible]77]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 18 October 2010]:* 139 schools were initially designated as specialist schools in the most recent round of applications.

Teachers: Chemistry

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many maintained mainstream secondary schools do not employ a teacher with a specialism in chemistry. [20241]

Tim Loughton: Information on the qualifications and deployment of secondary school teachers in maintained schools in England is currently available from the Secondary Schools Curriculum and Staffing Survey (SSCSS). The most recent survey was conducted in 2007; however, a reliable estimate of the number of schools that did not employ any teachers with a chemistry specialism is not possible from this data source due to a small sample size of 327 schools.

In future this information will be available centrally from the new school work force census. The census will collect annual information on the qualifications of all teachers in maintained secondary schools in England and the subjects that they are teaching. The first full collection of the census is scheduled for November 2010 and the findings are due to be published in April 2011.

Independent research has been conducted on the distribution of chemistry specialist teachers throughout England. In particular:

> The 2006 National Foundation for Educational Research report: "Mathematics and science in secondary schools"[1] suggested that of 12% of 11-16 schools had no specialist chemistry teachers (7% of all maintained secondary schools in England).

[1] *Source:*

"Mathematics and science in secondary schools", page 113, NfER 2006.

Teachers: Conditions of Employment

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the cost to schools of the introduction of the "rarely cover" guidelines for teachers in the 2009-10 academic year. [17235]

Mr Gibb: In September 2009, as part of "Raising Standards and Tackling Workload: a National Agreement", the previous administration introduced the provision that teachers should cover for other teachers only rarely, and only in circumstances that are not foreseeable by schools. I have made no estimate of the cost to schools of this provision for the academic year 2009-10.

This Government wants to reform our school system so that schools have the freedom and flexibilities to organise staff and resources in a way that reflects local priorities and needs.

Teachers: History

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many maintained mainstream secondary schools do not employ a teacher with a specialism in history. [20228]

Tim Loughton: Information on the qualifications and deployment of secondary school teachers in maintained schools in England is currently available from the Secondary Schools Curriculum and Staffing Survey (SSCSS). The most recent survey was conducted in 2007; however, a reliable estimate of the number of schools that did not employ any teachers with a history specialism is not possible from this data source due to a small sample size of 327 schools.

In future this information will be available centrally from the new School Workforce Census. The census will collect annual information on the qualifications of all teachers in maintained secondary schools in England and the subjects that they are teaching. The first full collection of the census is scheduled for November 2010 and the findings are due to be published in April 2011.

Teachers: Languages

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many maintained mainstream secondary schools do not employ a teacher with a specialism in a modern foreign language. [20236]

Tim Loughton: Information on the qualifications and deployment of secondary school teachers in maintained schools in England is currently available from the Secondary Schools Curriculum and Staffing Survey (SSCSS). The most recent survey was conducted in 2007; however, a reliable estimate of the number of schools that did not employ any teachers with a modern foreign language specialism is not possible from this data source due to a small sample size of 327 schools.

In future this information will be available centrally from the new School Workforce Census. The census will collect annual information on the qualifications of all teachers in maintained secondary schools in England and the subjects that they are teaching. The first full collection of the census is scheduled for November 2010 and the findings are due to be published in April 2011.

Teachers: Physics

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many maintained mainstream secondary schools do not employ a teacher with a specialism in physics. [20230]

Tim Loughton: Information on the qualifications and deployment of secondary school teachers in maintained schools in England is currently available from the Secondary Schools Curriculum and Staffing Survey (SSCSS). The most recent survey was conducted in 2007; however, a reliable estimate of the number of schools that did not employ any teachers with a physics specialism is not possible from this data source due to a small sample size of 327 schools.

In future this information will be available centrally from the new School Workforce Census. The census will collect annual information on the qualifications of all teachers in maintained secondary schools in England and the subjects that they are teaching. The first full collection of the census is scheduled for November 2010 and the findings are due to be published in April 2011.

Independent research has been conducted on the distribution of physics specialist teachers throughout England. In particular:

> The 2006 NfER report: Mathematics and science in secondary schools[1] suggested that one quarter of 11-16 schools had no specialist physics teachers (16% of all schools);
>
> [1] Mathematics and science in secondary schools, p. 113, NfER 2006
>
> More recently, Smithers and Robinson wrote a report for the Gatsby Foundation in 2008 on physics teachers which included an estimate of the distribution across maintained schools[2]. The report suggested that 24% of state schools do not employ a physics specialist, however, this percentage varied from between 0% of engineering specialist schools and 48% of non-specialist schools.
>
> [2] Physics in Schools IV: Supply and Retention of Teachers, p. 62, CEER 2008

Voluntary Schools: Hartlepool

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he expects to make a decision on the application for voluntary aided status from Ward Jackson primary school in Hartlepool constituency. [19500]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 25 October 2010]:* The application is for consent to publish proposals for a new Church of England voluntary aided school outside a new school competition, to replace the current Ward Jackson community school. If consent is granted a full statutory process must still be followed and the decision on whether or not the new school is approved will be taken locally, under established local decision-making arrangements.

We are awaiting further information from the Diocese of Durham which is the applicant in this case as a school does not have the power to make an application. The application will be considered in full once this is received.

Witten Questions: Government Responses

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to answer question 15590 on sixth form colleges and the Young Person's Learning Agency, tabled on 13 September 2010 for answer on 16 September; and if he will make a statement. [19101]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 22 October 2010]:* PQ 15590 was answered on 25 October, *Official Report*, column 95W.

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he expects to answer question 19500, tabled by the hon. member for Hartlepool (Mr Wright) on 20 October 2010 for named day answer on 25 October on the voluntary-aided application status of Ward Jackson primary school in Hartlepool constituency. [22621]

Mr Gibb: A response has been issued to the hon. Member today.

Kevin Brennan: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to answer questions *(a)* 20044, *(b)* 20045, *(c)* 20046 and *(d)* 20146 tabled on 25 October 2010 for named day answer on 28 October 2010. [22745]

Tim Loughton: Responses to the hon. Member's questions will be issued shortly.

JUSTICE

Corporate Information

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much the Office of the Information Commissioner spent on the provision of corporate information in the last 24 months. [21813]

Mr Djanogly: The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) does not have a specific budget for corporate entertainment. However, the costs of refreshments during meetings is set out as follows:

Financial year	*Cost (£)*
2008-09	10,158
2009-10	6,605
2010-11 (until 31 October 2010)	2,730

This information was provided by the ICO.

Court of Protection

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many individuals are subject to a Court of Protection order determining that they do not have the capacity to decide where they may live. [21866]

Mr Djanogly: Applications to the Court of Protection cover a wide range of financial, health care and personal welfare issues, including where it is in the best interests of the person to live, and often the application will require the court to deal with a number of issues together. During the period from 1 October 2007 (when the current Court of Protection was created by the Mental Capacity Act 2005) to 31 October 2010, the Court of Protection made 420 orders in relation to its personal welfare jurisdiction, and in 294 of these cases, the court appointed a deputy to make personal welfare decisions on behalf of the person lacking mental capacity. Some of these orders may have involved decisions about where someone should live, but the court does not record this level of detail centrally and could obtain the information only by examining all the court files at disproportionate cost.

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many persons resident in the UK and subject to *(a)* imprisonment or *(b)* orders of (i) the Court of Protection and (ii) other courts may not have their names published by virtue of legislative provision or court order. [21830]

Mr Djanogly: In response to parts *(a)* and *(b)* (ii) above, there is no information held centrally on how many UK residents subject to imprisonment or court order may not have their names published by virtue of legislation or court orders.

As far as part *(b)* (i) is concerned, the Court of Protection Rules 2007 provide that, as a general rule, proceedings are held in private, but the court has a general power to authorise publication of information about proceedings and to order that a hearing be held in public. It is contempt of court to publish any information about Court of Protection proceedings, unless the court has ordered otherwise. The Court of Protection received 20,936 applications in 2008-09 and 19,528 in 2009-10, and there are currently 35,000 court appointed deputies authorised to make decisions on behalf of persons who lack the capacity to make such decisions themselves.

Courts: Offenders

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were serving a custodial sentence as a result of a contempt of court in respect of each division of court that sentenced them in the latest period for which figures are available. [21504]

Mr Blunt: As of 30 September 2010 there were 24 people recorded as being imprisoned for contempt of court.

There are no readily available data to separately identify each division of the sentencing court. This detailed information is held by the courts only on individual case files, which due to their size and complexity are not reported centrally to the Ministry of Justice.

Cruelty Against Children: Cruelty To Animals

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will commission research into possible links between convictions of individuals for offences involving cruelty to animals and subsequent convictions of the same individuals for offences involving acts of cruelty against children. [21688]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice collates administrative data via the Police National Computer (PNC) on the numbers of offenders convicted of a variety of offences. Analysis of an extract of data from the PNC shows that there were 10,617 offenders convicted of animal cruelty between 2000 and 2009 and recorded on the PNC. Of these, 32 (0.3%) were recorded as being subsequently convicted of cruelty to or neglect of children, under the Children and Young Persons Act 1933.

Further research is not currently planned on this topic.

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much the Office of the Information Commissioner spent on alcohol in the last 24 months. [21814]

Mr Djanogly: No figure is available for the amount spent on alcohol by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) in the last 24 months. Expenditure on refreshments is not recorded separately for alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages.

This information was provided by the ICO.

Departmental Buildings

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the address is of each property *(a)* leased and *(b)* owned by the Tribunals Service; and what the annual rental costs of those buildings were in each of the last three years. [21832]

Mr Djanogly: I have arranged for the list of addresses requested by the hon. Member to be placed in the Library of the House.

The Tribunals Service currently has 41 leasehold properties; these are properties leased from private companies. There are 16 properties owned or leased by other Government Departments where the Tribunals Service is a minor occupier; these properties are known as properties held on a memorandum of terms of occupancy (MOTO). There are also 47 properties which are part of the PRIME contract with Department for Work and Pensions; this is a MOTO with the DWP for occupancy of space at DWP sites which was transferred to the Tribunals Service.

For the past three years the rental costs for buildings leased or held on a MOTO (excluding the DWP PRIME contract) by the Tribunals Service is shown in the following table.

	Rental cost (£ million)
2007-08	24.287
2008-09	24.274
2009-10	23.456

The facility price for the buildings held on a MOTO within the DWP PRIME contract for the past three years is shown in the following table.

	Facility price (£ million)
2007-08	9.377
2008-09	9.475
2009-10	8.901

The cost used is the facility price associated with the DWP PRIME contract. The rental element can be calculated only at a disproportionate cost due to the nature of the invoicing arrangement.

Departmental Communications

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how much the Office of the Information Commissioner has spent on external communications and marketing in each year since its inception; [21818]

(2) how much the Office of the Information Commissioner has spent on internal communications in each year since its inception. [21819]

Mr Djanogly: The expenditure for both internal and external communications and marketing is set out in the following table. Expenditure on internal communications was only recorded separately from 2006-07. Before that date that expenditure comprises part of the total reported expenditure on communications and marketing. The figures in the total expenditure column are extracted from published annual reports, although the description of this type of expenditure has varied over the years including Public relations, Education and Awareness, Communications and External Relations.

		£
Financial year	*Total expenditure on communications*	*Internal communications*
1984-85	3,840	n/a
1985-86	395,397	n/a
1986-87	386,552	n/a
1987-88	699,545	n/a
1988-89	756,068	n/a
1989-90	629,915	n/a
1990-91	493,958	n/a
1991-92	503,252	n/a
1992-93	649,902	n/a
1993-94	411,730	n/a
1994-95	428,754	n/a
1995-96	381,055	n/a
1996-97	577,952	n/a
1997-98	324,248	n/a
1998-99	209,072	n/a
1999-2000	506,386	n/a
2000-01	956,423	n/a
2001-02	1,262,330	n/a
2002-03	1,149,679	n/a
2003-04	1,275,153	n/a
2004-05	1,049,660	n/a
2005-06	1,343,110	n/a
2006-07	1,861,782	20,335
2007-08	1,472,604	36,999
2008-09	1,415,000	12,323
2009-10	1,346,000	11,583

n/a = Not available.

Source:

This information was provided by the Information Commissioner's Office.

Departmental Conferences

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the expenditure from the public purse by the Office of the Information Commissioner on *(a)* attending and *(b)* hosting conferences in each of the last five years. [21812]

Mr Djanogly: No estimate is available for the cost of attending conferences hosted by other organisations. Staff from the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) routinely attend conferences to give presentations on information rights and to encourage good practice. Staff combine attendance or speaking at conferences with other meetings to make the best use of their time and travel costs.

The cost of conferences hosted by the ICO in each of the last years is set out in the following table.

Financial year	*Cost (£)*
2005-06	24,747
2006-07	159,648
2007-08	19,934
2008-09	70,094
2009-10	74,398

Note:

In 2006-07 the ICO hosted the International Freedom of Information and Data Protection Conferences on behalf of the United Kingdom.

Source:

This information was provided by the ICO.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each of its Ministers in *(a)* September and *(b)* October 2010. [21786]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The only expenditure of this nature incurred during this period was by me, as Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor on the following events:

	Event	*Cost (£)*
1 October 2010	Cost of opening of legal year breakfast	13,176
18 October 2010	Lord Mayor Elect ceremony	340
Total	—	13,516

All hospitality is closely scrutinised and carefully monitored to ensure good value for taxpayers' money and that it stays within the appropriate rules and guidelines.

Departmental Pay

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the annual salary of the Information Commissioner was in the latest period for which figures are available; and what *(a)* expenses, *(b)* bonus, *(c)* car scheme and *(d)* pension payments were made. [21811]

Mr Djanogly: The Information Commissioner's salary for the period 2009-10 was set by Parliament at £140,000. The Information Commissioner is not eligible for a bonus and the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) does not operate a car scheme. The current Information Commissioner's expenses for the financial year 2009-10 were £5,875 and cover the period from 29 June 2009 when he took up his appointment to 31 March 2010. His expenses for the financial year 2010-11 were £570 as at 31 October. The pension payments in respect of the current Information Commissioner were £25,704 for the period between 29 June 2009 and 31 March 2010.

The remuneration package and expenses for the Information Commissioner and members of the ICO executive team are included in the Information Commissioner's annual report 2009-10, which was laid before Parliament in July 2010.

This information was provided by the ICO.

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff are employed by the Tribunals Service; and how much was spent on salary costs in the last year for which figures are available. [21831]

Mr Djanogly: The average number of staff employed during the financial year of 2009-10 was 2,992.

The expenditure incurred as a result of this staffing level for 2009-10 was £76.993 million.

Departmental Policy

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what departmental policy reviews his Department has undertaken since 6 May 2010; on what date each such review *(a)* was announced and *(b)* is expected to publish its findings; what estimate he has made of the cost of each such review; who has been appointed to lead each such review; to what remuneration each review leader is entitled; how many (i) full-time equivalent civil servants and (ii) seconded staff are working on each such review; from which organisations such staff have been seconded; and how much on average such seconded staff will be paid for their work on the review. [21878]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice has not established any external policy reviews since 6 May 2010. However, the Family Justice Review was announced in the Families and Relationships Green Paper from the then Department for Children, Schools and Families in January 2010.

The review is expected to publish its final report in autumn 2011 and is expected to cost £75,000 for the financial year 2010-11.

David Norgrove is heading up the review. He receives no remuneration, but is reimbursed for expenses incurred through his work for the review.

The review is staffed by 7.7 FTE civil servants and there are no seconded staff on the review.

Departmental Public Expenditure

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what his Department's capital expenditure per head was in *(a)* London and *(b)* the North West in each of the last five years; [21459]

(2) how much and what proportion of his Department's capital expenditure was allocated to *(a)* London and *(b)* the North West in each of the last five financial years. [21469]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) does not centrally hold information on capital expenditure per head or by allocation on a regional basis. It would incur disproportionate cost to collate such information at a local level with full coverage of the Department including: the MoJ Headquarters, HM Courts Service, Tribunals Service, the Office of the Public Guardian, and the National Offender Management Service.

However, information on what the MoJ has incurred in terms of the total capital costs set under the Departmental Expenditure Limits (DEL) is available in the public domain. This can be found on p161 of the Department's 2009-10 Resource Accounts at the following link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/resource-accounts-2009-10.htm

The MoJ capital outturn for the last five years is summarised in the following table:

Financial year	*Outturn (£000)*
2009-10	848,023
2008-09	899,558
2007-08	748,799
2006-07	534,965
2005-06	502,442

The increase in expenditure in 2007-08 and in the following years is due to machinery of government change, which resulted in the transfer of additional funding for the National Offender Management Service and the Office for Criminal Justice Reform from the Home Office to the newly formed Ministry of Justice, and the implementation of Lord Carter's review of HM

Prison Service, which resulted in an increase in capital spend to take account of the additional prison capacity requirement.

Departmental Redundancy

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many redundancies he expects there to be at the Tribunals Service as a result of the implementation of the Government's proposals for public bodies reform; and what he expects the *(a)* severance and *(b)* pension arrangements to be for employees. [21833]

Mr Djanogly: Proposals for public bodies reform published by the Cabinet Office on 14 October and introduced in the Public Bodies Bill are that a number of appeal jurisdictions currently under the Departments for Business, Innovation and Skills, Communities and Local Government and Environment, Food and Rural Affairs be transferred to the Tribunals Service. There are no plans for changes to existing Tribunals Service jurisdictions and, therefore, no redundancies are expected as a result of the proposals for public bodies reforms.

The Ministry of Justice has received the spending review 2010 allocation but this has not yet been apportioned to business groups to inform workforce planning over the comprehensive spending review period. It is forecast that any staff reductions will be achieved as much as possible through natural attrition and voluntary early exits, with compulsory departures to be used only as a last resort.

(a) All early departures will be subject to the Civil Service Compensation Scheme.

(b) All pension arrangements are subject to the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme.

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding to meet staff redundancy costs was identified in his Department's settlement letter in respect of the comprehensive spending review. [21541]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: All pressures on Departments' budgets were taken into account as part of the spending review and settlements were allocated accordingly. The full costs of redundancies will be met from within the Ministry of Justice's spending review resource DEL settlement.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have been offered enhanced early retirement packages in each of the last three years. [22028]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The information requested is as follows.

Ministry of Justice (excluding National Offender Management Service)

The Ministry of Justice does not record centrally the numbers of staff that have been offered enhanced early retirement packages in each of the last three years.

However, the following table details the number of staff, including senior civil service, who have accepted and left the Department and its agencies (excluding NOMS) on enhanced early retirement packages in the last three years.

	Number
March 2007 to March 2008	71
April 2008 to March 2009	80
April 2009 to March 2010	14

The above numbers include staff who have left the Ministry on compulsory early retirement terms or flexible early retirement terms.

National Offender Management Service (NOMS)

Information regarding the number of staff who have been offered enhanced retirement packages prior to September 2009 is not held centrally and to obtain this information would incur disproportionate costs.

However, in September 2009, the National Offender Management Service published a voluntary exit scheme for managers under the terms of the Civil Service Compensation Scheme. In March 2010, 258 members of staff exited from NOMS via this scheme. Of this total figure, 12 senior managers were offered and exited under enhanced early retirement packages (flexible early retirement terms).

The following table details the number of staff who have accepted and left NOMS on early retirement, not necessarily enhanced packages, in the last three years.

	Number
May 2007 to March 2008	79
April 2008 to March 2009	32
April 2009 to March 2010	292

The above numbers include staff who have retired early from NOMS on approved early retirement or flexible early retirement terms (enhanced retirement package).

Departmental Travel

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate his Department has made of its expenditure on travel undertaken by *(a)* him and *(b)* each other Minister in his Department in (i) September and (ii) October 2010. [21860]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The amounts spent on travel incurred during this period by me, as Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor and my Ministers are as follows:

		£
Minister	*October 2010*	*September 2010*
Kenneth Clarke QC	1,555	4,137
Lord McNally	645	3,077
Crispin Blunt	528	102
Jonathan Djanogly	170	39
Total	2,899	7,356

All travel by Ministers is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

A proportion of these costs are attributable to staff within Private Offices accompanying Ministers on business. It would incur disproportionate cost to separately identify these amounts.

The figures do not include the costs of the Government Car Service since the Ministry are still awaiting some of the invoices for those journeys taken in September and October.

Empty Dwelling Management Orders: Squatting

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent representations he has received from *(a)* members of the public, *(b)* local government councillors and *(c)* hon. Members and Members of the House of Lords on properties occupied by squatters; what response he provided in each case; and if he will make a statement. [21935]

Mr Blunt: Following recent media coverage about the harm caused by squatters in residential and non-residential property, I have received a number of representations from members of the public and Members of Parliament calling for the law to be strengthened. To date, I have not received any representations from Members of the House of Lords or local councillors on this issue.

I have asked my officials to look at the existing law on trespass and the way it is enforced to see if it can be strengthened. They are working with officials in other Government Departments, including the Home Office, and with the Association of Chief Police Officers and CPS to see what, if any, changes may need to be made, including to police guidance on dealing with squatters. No firm conclusions have been reached.

Expert Evidence: Social Work

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what his policy is on the inclusion of the work of independent social workers in the remit of his Department's review group on expert witnesses in the family courts; [21706]

(2) if he will review the appropriateness of the fee structure proposed by the Legal Services Commission for independent social workers acting as expert witnesses in the family courts. [21707]

Mr Djanogly: Payments to independent social workers (ISWs) for family legal aid work are not included within the remit of the separate work being undertaken by my Department and the Legal Services Commission (LSC) on payments to expert witnesses in legal aid cases. This has been made clear to ISW groups on many occasions although they have also been invited to see and comment on any emerging findings from the expert witness fees project as part of a wider reference group. This is because changes to payments to ISWs were consulted on as part of the joint Ministry of Justice (MOJ) and LSC consultation Family Legal Aid Funding from 2010 which ran from 18 December 2008 to 3 April 2009. Following the full public consultation, it was confirmed in the consultation response that payment for legally aided independent social work in public and private law children cases would be capped to the same level as that paid by the Children and Family Court Advisory Service (CAFCASS). The consultation response was published on 21 October 2009 and is available on the LSC website at:

https://consult.legalservices.gov.uk/inovem/consult.ti/FamilyFees2008/listdocuments

The Department has no current plans to review this change, as it is considered that it is not an effective use of public money for the LSC to pay higher rates than those set by CAFCASS.

Google

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff of the Office of the Information Commissioner participated in the visit to the headquarters of Google in July 2010; and what the technical qualifications were of such staff. [21815]

Mr Djanogly: Two staff from the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) participated in the visit to Google's headquarters in July 2010. As an Assistant Commissioner and a Strategic Liaison Group Manager, they were both senior staff with considerable experience in data protection law. This information was provided by the ICO.

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice who was responsible for selecting the sample of the Google Street View payload data examined by staff of the Office of the Information Commissioner during their visit to the headquarters of Google in July 2010. [21816]

Mr Djanogly: The Information Commissioner's staff selected the sample payload data which was examined during their visit to Google headquarters.

This information was provided by the Information Commissioner's Office.

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many meetings *(a)* the Information Commissioner and *(b)* officials in his office held with representatives of Google in the last 24 months; and which representatives of Google were present on each occasion. [21820]

Mr Djanogly: The Information Commissioner has not met representatives of Google in the last 24 months. Staff from the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) have met representatives of Google on two occasions and have also been in contact by email and telephone.

This information was provided by the ICO.

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he received written advice from the Information Commissioner on Google's Street View project between January and October 2010. [21903]

Mr Djanogly: UK data protection legislation is enforced independently of Government by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and it would not be appropriate for Ministers to be involved in the ICO's handling of any particular case.

Discussions between the Information Commissioner and Ministers with regard to Google's Street View project have related to the general principles of the case.

Homicide: Sentencing

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will assess the merits of extending the tariffs for individuals found guilty of murder who refuse to disclose *(a)* the location of a body, *(b)* the method of murder and *(c)* the date and time of murder where such disclosure may be of comfort to the bereaved. [22431]

Mr Blunt: The concealment of the body, or other evidence, is already an aggravating factor in sentencing. This means that where, for example, a murderer fails to disclose the location of the body of the victim, the court will punish that aspect of the offender's behaviour by imposing a longer minimum term under the mandatory life sentence required for murder.

Judges: Public Appointments

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 28 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 482W, on judges: appointments, whether the most recent reserve list of candidates for judicial appointments contained candidates that did not pass a judicial competition; and how many judicial appointments have been made of candidates who had not passed a judicial competition in the latest period for which figures are available. [22379]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: All candidates who have been recommended for appointment under section 94 of the Constitutional Reform Act 2005 have been through a selection exercise (competition) run by the Judicial Appointments Commission in accordance with that Act.

All judicial appointments made under the Constitutional Reform Act 2005 for the period 2009-2010 (the latest period for which figures are available) followed a selection exercise (competition) run by the Judicial Appointments Commission.

During the same period, at the request of the Lord Chief Justice and with the agreement of the Lord Chancellor, eight Circuit Judges were re-graded to Senior Circuit Judge without going through a JAC selection exercise.

Juries: Mental Illness

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what impact assessment his Department has undertaken in respect of those diagnosed with mental health conditions who are disqualified from jury service under the Juries Act 1974; and what impact assessment his Department has undertaken in respect of *(a)* the Equality Act 2010, *(b)* the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and *(c)* the Mental Capacity Act 2005. [22459]

Mr Blunt: We have no plans at present to change the provisions in the Juries Act 1974 relating to the eligibility for jury service of people with mental health conditions and therefore are not undertaking any formal impact assessments in that connection. Initial analysis has indicated that only about 2% of people summoned for jury service are disqualified on grounds of mental health. Modifying the provisions governing people's eligibility to serve would be a disproportionate response in view of the limited benefits and the small number of people likely to be affected.

Magistrates Courts

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what response he has made to the Commissioner for Victims of Crime on his proposal to increase the number of cases heard by magistrates courts; and if he will make a statement. [22608]

Mr Blunt: A statement issued by the Ministry of Justice on 3 November said:

> "The Victims Commissioner has called for an end to trial by jury for defendants in petty crime cases and the prevention of late guilty pleas. However, the Government is committed to preserving a person's fundamental right to have their case heard before a jury.
>
> Many defendants who elect Crown Court trial go on to plead guilty before the trial begins. This is unfair to victims and witnesses, and a waste of taxpayers' money.
>
> Those who plead guilty spare the victim the ordeal of giving evidence in court, and the criminal justice system significant resource. We are considering how best to encourage guilty pleas at an earlier stage, while preserving a person's long-standing right to have their case heard before a jury."

Mental Health

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of recommendations relevant to his Department's policy responsibilities contained in the Foresight report on Mental Capacity and Well-Being by the Government Office for Science; if he will ensure that his Department takes steps to promote well-being; if he will ensure that his Department's policy development process takes account of psychological research into subjective well-being; and if he will make a statement. [22757]

Mr Blunt: We recognise the importance of decisions and actions taken in the justice system as having a significant impact on individuals' mental health and well-being, and anticipate that many of our planned reforms will have a positive impact. For example, the family justice review is considering how to make the family justice system more efficient and effective, thereby providing better outcomes for people using it; and our proposals for bringing about a rehabilitation revolution are aimed to improve access to mental health services by offenders—a group identified by the Foresight report as suffering from high levels of mental health problems. We will be consulting widely in our forthcoming Rehabilitation and Sentencing Green Paper, and implementation of changes will be informed by the views received and the relevant research.

National Probation Service: Wales

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding he allocated to the Probation Service in North Wales in 2009-10; and how much such funding he plans to allocate in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12. [22260]

Mr Blunt: In the financial year 2009-10 the funding allocated to North Wales Probation Board by NOMS was £12,132,000. In addition to this funding, NOMS Cymru made an additional allocation of £205,000 to ensure that North Wales Probation received a sufficient level of funding to provide probation services across the region. During the financial year north Wales identified that it would not spend this full allocation and a transfer of funding of £112,000 was made to Gwent Probation Board to allow it to offer some employees early exit schemes. The final amount of funding provided to North Wales Probation Board for 2009-10 was £12,225,000.

With effect from 1 April 2010, following the successful application of all four probation organisations in Wales to merge and form the Wales Probation Trust, North Wales Probation Board ceased to exist as a single entity. As such it is not possible to identify the amount of funding allocated to north Wales for probation services, however, the level of funding provided to the Wales Probation Trust for 2010-11 currently stands at £55,626,000, which represents a funding settlement that is in line with the business plan put forward as part of the application to form the Wales Probation Trust. It is not possible to specify the proportion of funding provided to cover north Wales as many services are now provided on an all Wales basis.

NOMS is unable to confirm the level of funding that will be provided to the Wales Probation Trust for 2011-12 as the settlement for the whole of NOMS is not yet known. Once the detail of the impact of the comprehensive spending review has been worked through NOMS will be in a position to provide the planned funding allocation for Wales Probation Trust.

Offenders: Disciplinary Offences

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders in each prison establishment were found to be in breach of prison discipline in each of the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [21959]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) records the total number of findings of guilt against prisoners at internal disciplinary hearings (adjudications). Information by month and by establishment is not held centrally and could be obtained by contacting every prison only at disproportionate cost.

In 2009 (the latest year for which figures are available) the total number of proven disciplinary offences was 104,745. Some prisoners may have been found guilty of more than one offence.

Data on disciplinary offences and punishments in prisons are available in the Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2009, on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

Information Commissioner's Office

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Information Commissioner's Office. [21817]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice and the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) meet regularly to discuss a range of matters, including the Commissioner's powers and resources.

The ICO is independent of Government in the way it discharges its statutory responsibilities in respect of the Freedom of Information Act, Environmental Information Regulations, Data Protection Act and Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations.

Parole: Reoffenders

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people were recalled to prison from the Bridgewood House probation hostel, Northampton in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009; [21713]

(2) what proportion of the prison population was made up of recalled prisoners in the latest period for which figures are available; [21714]

(3) how many people were recalled to prison for breaches of licence in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009. [21716]

Mr Blunt: According to information provided by Bridgewood House Approved Premises, Northampton, the number of residents recalled to prison in *(a)* 2008 was 13 and *(b)* 2009 was 15.

The prison population as at 30 September 2010 was 85,429; of these prisoners, 5,659 were recalls, a proportion of 7%.

Data on the number of offenders recalled to custody are broken down by business year (April to March). The number of offenders recalled to prison in *(a)* 2008-09 was 13,351 and *(b)* 2009-10 was 14,779.

The Department publishes quarterly information on the prison population; the latest available data, September 2010, can be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/offender-management-stats-quarterly.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prison Accommodation

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cells are available for solitary confinement on the prison estate. [22214]

Mr Blunt: As of 4 November 2010 and based on information from central records, around 1,950 places are available for the purposes of holding prisoners in segregated conditions.

These figures have been drawn from central administrative/recording systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prison Officers

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what recent estimate he has made of the average cost to the public purse of training a new entrant prison officer level 2; [21961]

(2) what recent estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of training a new entrant prison officer. [21962]

Mr Blunt: Since 1 October 2009, all newly recruited prison officers commence employment in the core role of Prison Officer 2.

The cost of training a new entrant Prison Officer 2 is approximately £4,423 per person.

Prison Sentences

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people convicted for offences in each category were given indeterminate sentences for public protection in the latest year for which figures are available. [22254]

Mr Blunt: The number of persons given indeterminate sentences for public protection (IPP) for each offence group in 2009 (latest available) can be found in the following table:

Persons given an indeterminate sentence for public protection (IPP)[1], by offence group, 2009[2, 3]

Offence group	*Number*
Violence against the person	357
Sexual offences	298
Burglary	25
Robbery	213
Criminal damage	54
Other (excluding motoring offences) indictable offences	54
All offences	1,001

[1] S.225 and 226 Criminal Justice Act 2003—Detention for Public Protection in the case of offenders under 18.

[2] The figures given in the table relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics—Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 25 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 41-43W, on sentencing, what the most recent common offence was of offenders sent to jail for 15 or more previous convictions or cautions who did not receive an immediate custodial sentence in each year. [22319]

Mr Blunt: Theft from a shop is the most common offence for offenders with 15 or more convictions or cautions who did not receive an immediate custodial sentence. As can be seen in table 1, in 2009 theft from a shop accounted for 24,658 (44%) of offenders who were not sentenced to immediate custody and had 15 or more convictions or cautions. These figures are derived from table 6.2 of "Sentencing Statistics: England and Wales 2009" which was published on 21 October 2010.

Table 1: Number of offenders with 15 or more convictions or cautions who did not receive an immediate custodial sentence for an indictable offence by most common offence, 2007-09, England and Wales

	2007	*2008*	*2009*
Number of offenders sentenced for theft from a shop with 15 or more previous convictions/cautions	18,625	21,999	24,658
Percentage of offenders sentenced for theft from a shop with 15 or more previous convictions/cautions	39	41	44
All offenders with 15 or more previous convictions/cautions (Number)	47,649	53,497	56,671

The figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

Prison Service: Wales

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding he allocated to the Prison Service in North Wales in 2009-10; and how much such funding he plans to allocate in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12. [22259]

Mr Blunt: The Prison Service and NOMS are national agencies that cover the whole of England and Wales and provide a service for all offenders regardless of their home location. Presently there are no prisons situated in north Wales area and as such there has been no funding directly allocated to north Wales in relation to Prison Services. The majority of male offenders in custody who originate from north Wales are located at HMP Altcourse, with the majority of female prisoners being held in HMP Styal, and additional services have been allocated to support Welsh offenders held at both sites. The cost of these services are included in the overall prisons' cost. As such we are unable to separately identify the funds utilised for those services.

Prison: Education

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prison officers and *(b)* other staff are engaged in delivering education in prison; and how many redundancies among such staff he expects to arise from the implementation of the proposals of the 2010 Comprehensive Spending Review. [21927]

Mr Blunt: There were (on 30 June 2010) 277 full-time equivalent directly employed prison officers, senior officers and principal officers with an instructional specialism. There are also 895 full time equivalent directly employed civilian instructional officers, who are civil servants and are involved in delivering vocational training in prison workshops and other areas.

Education in prisons is, in the main, contracted out by the Skills Funding Agency and its contractors employ the staff. No central information is held on their numbers and to collect this information from individual contractors would incur disproportionate cost.

The impact of the 2010 Comprehensive Spending Review on offender education staffing levels is not yet determined.

A review led jointly by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Ministry of Justice on offender education is currently underway and is due to report to Ministers before Christmas.

Prisoners

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has spent on halfway houses for former prison inmates in the last three years. [22077]

Mr Blunt: Approved Premises provide close and enhanced supervised accommodation for high and very high risk offenders, which would be much more difficult if such offenders were dispersed into less suitable accommodation elsewhere in the community. Approved Premises accommodate prisoners who have completed the custodial part of their sentence and have been released on licence, as well as offenders serving community sentences and bailees with a condition of residence. The total budget for Approved Premises in each of the last three financial years (including 2010-11) has been £58,300,000. It is not possible to separate out the cost of providing supervised accommodation in Approved Premises for offenders on licence from the cost of providing that accommodation to other offenders and bailees.

The Bail Accommodation and Support Service (BASS) provides accommodation for bailees and for prisoners released on Home Detention Curfew (HDC). We estimate that the total spending on HDC usage within BASS over the last three financial years (including 2010-11) will be £11.46 million.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his most recent estimate is of the prison population in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [22216]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice produces annual projections of the prison population in England and Wales, most recently in August 2010. These project the prison population under three different scenarios (increasing sentencing, no change and decreasing sentencing), based on different assumptions about future sentencing trends (custody rate and average custodial sentence length).

These projections take no account of any impact on the prison population which might result from the recently published Ministry of Justice Structural Reform Plan.

Other impacts included in the projections, such as those of legislation and processes, are applied equally to all scenarios. These cover the anticipated impacts of policy and process initiatives that have agreed implementation timetables.

The following table shows end of June figures for the projected prison population for the next five years:

Projected prison population (end of June figures)

	Sentencing trends		
	Increase	*No change*	*Decrease*
2011	88,000	87,100	86,100
2012	89,300	87,700	85,900
2013	90,800	88,400	85,700
2014	92,000	88,700	85,200
2015	92,800	88,600	84,200

Note:
All figures are rounded to the nearest 100.

These and more details on the projections may be found in the latest published bulletin "Prison Population Projections 2010-16" Ministry of Justice Statistics Bulletin, 10 August 2010. This is available at the following webpage:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonpopulation.htm

Prisoners' Release

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of prisoners were released having served their full sentence in prison in each year since 1997. [22215]

Mr Blunt: In accordance with the legislation which governs the release of prisoners, no prisoner serving a determinate sentence is required to serve the entire sentence in prison. Most are required by law to be released at the halfway point of their sentence and, for sentences longer than 12 months, they then serve the second half of the sentence on licence in the community. They are supervised by the Probation Service and may be recalled to prison during the licence period if they fail to comply with their conditions. Only those prisoners serving a life sentence with a whole life tariff will spend their entire sentence in prison.

The actual amount of time served in prison, following sentence, will depend on a number of factors, including time spent as a remand prisoner or credit for time spent on tagged bail if directed by the court, any added days for misbehaviour in prison and where release may be discretionary, for example on parole, home detention curfew or end of custody licence, if eligibility criteria are met—the end of custody licence scheme operated between June 2007 and March 2010, when it was brought to an end.

Prisoners: Compensation

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions his Department has settled out of court a claim for compensation made by a prison inmate in each of the last three years. [21795]

Mr Blunt: There is no central record of all prisoner claims brought against the Ministry of Justice and to attempt to provide the information would incur significant disproportionate cost. However, claims against the Prison Service part of the National Offender Management Service are recorded centrally. Those figures show that 333, 409 and 322 prisoner claims were settled out of court in 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 respectively.

Prisoners: Drugs

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many inmates *(a)* nationally and *(b)* at HMP Maidstone have been reprimanded for offences involving the use of drugs while in prison in the last 12 months. [21480]

Mr Blunt: Prisoners are reprimanded for misusing drugs through the prison discipline system when identified through the prisons Mandatory Drug Testing (MDT) programme. The following table gives the number in 2009 punished for the offence of "unauthorised use of a controlled drug".

Adjudication offence: "unauthorised use of a controlled drug" number of offences punished in 2009

	Number
All prisons England and Wales	6,480
Maidstone	60

Prisoners may also be punished in other circumstances for drug offences, for example, as a result of cell searches, social visits and in circumstances where use cannot be proven.

All figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system. The data are not subject to audit.

Prisoners: Education

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what steps he is taking to increase the number of prisoners who are able to undertake education in prison; and if he will make a statement; [21925]

(2) what his policy is on the use of distance learning for short-term prisoners; and what steps he is taking to increase the availability of such courses to prisoners. [21926]

Mr Blunt: A review on offender education led jointly by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Ministry of Justice is currently under way and is due to report to Ministers before Christmas. I expect the review to address issues such as the efficiency of education delivery, how best to maximise the number of prisoners who are able to undertake education in prison and the use of distance learning and other non-classroom based learning.

Prisoners: Fees and Charges

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will introduce means-tested charges for prisoners in England and Wales to cover the cost of their housing and food. [21806]

Mr Blunt: The Prison Act 1952 prevents prisoners being required to finance the cost of their prison sentence. Section 51 of the Act requires that all expenses incurred maintaining both prisons and prisoners must be met from public funds. As part of the Rehabilitation and Sentencing Green Paper the Government are exploring the implementation of the Prisoners' Earnings Act 1996 in respect of financial reparation to victims.

Prisoners: Mobile Phones

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many inmates *(a)* nationally and *(b)* at HMP Maidstone have been reprimanded for offences involving the use of mobile telephones whilst in prison in the last 12 months. [21479]

Mr Blunt: NOMS does not hold centrally information on the number of disciplinary proceedings taken against prisoners using mobile phones. To provide the information requested would require a detailed investigation into all locally held records, which would incur disproportionate cost.

Prisons: Education

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what qualifications are available for prisoners to undertake; how many prisoners took part in a course to attain each type of qualification in each of the last five years; and how many and what proportion of prisoners completed each course in each year for which figures are available. [22209]

Mr Blunt: There are a wide range of qualifications available in prisons. The majority of these are delivered by the Offender Learning and Skills Service (OLASS) funded and contracted by the Skills Funding Agency. The curriculum varies in all prisons depending on identified learning need.

In addition to basic literacy and numeracy 'Skills for Life' qualifications, further training opportunities, classroom based and vocational, are available to support individuals who have employment aspirations and where their Individual Learning and Sentence Plans recommend that they engage in training.

Qualifications offered include those on the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) giving learners the opportunity to achieve credits that contribute to a full nationally recognised qualification.

The Skills Funding Agency is able to provide information on the number of learners engaged in learning and skills provision funded by the Skills Funding Agency (formerly the Learning and Skills Council) and the type of aims enrolled, completed and achieved from the Individualised Learner Records (ILR) in the 2006-07 academic year (August 06 to July 07), the 2007-08 academic year (August 07 to July 08) and the 2008-09 academic year (August 08 to July 09) by aim types.

In the 2006-07 academic year, there were 92,371 learners engaged in learning and skills provision funded by the LSC. Table 1 shows that there were 240,045 learning aims enrolled upon by these learners and 43,457 (18%) of these aims were related to specific aim types. Completion rate for total aims were at 54% and achievement rate for the total aims were at 42%.

Table 1: 2006-07 F05 academic year ILR data (LSC funded provision): Includes custody and community aims enrolled by all learners There were 92,371 learners identified in the 2006-07 academic year who were engaged in the LSC funded provision

Aim Type	*Aims enrolled*	*% aims*	*Completed*	*% completed*	*Achieved*	*% achieved*
Access to HE	101	0	8	8	2	2
GCE A/AS/A2 level	112	0	63	56	27	24
GCSE	788	0	374	47	251	32
GNVQ precursor	10	0	10	100	9	90
GNVQ/AVCE	11	0	-	0	-	0
NVQ	989	0	426	43	357	36

Table 1: 2006-07 F05 academic year ILR data (LSC funded provision): Includes custody and community aims enrolled by all learners There were 92,371 learners identified in the 2006-07 academic year who were engaged in the LSC funded provision

Aim Type	*Aims enrolled*	*% aims*	*Completed*	*% completed*	*Achieved*	*% achieved*
OCN	41,446	17	22,608	55	17,035	41
Other	196,588	82	105,751	54	84,299	43
Grand Total	240,045	100	129,240	54	101,980	42

Source:
2006-07 ILR

In the 2007-08 academic year, there were 115,807 learners engaged in learning and skills provision in custody. There were 299,300 learning aims engaged by these learners and 48,323 (16%) of these aims were related to specific aim types. Completion rate for total aims with specific aim types were at 57% and achievement rate for those aims were at 49%.

Table 2: 2007-08 F05 academic year ILR data (LSC funded provision in custody): Includes custody enrolled by all learners: There were 115,807 learners in custody identified in the 2007-08 academic year who were engaged in LSC funded provision.

Aim Type	*Aims enrolled*	*% Aims*	*Completed*	*% completed*	*Achieved*	*% Achieved*
Access to HE	45	0	10	22	7	16
GCE A/AS/A2 level	264	0	63	24	64	24
GCSE	1,194	0	491	41	386	32
GNVQ precursor	4	0	2	50	2	50
GNVQ/AVCE	4	0	—	0	0	0
NVQ	2,224	1	1,270	57	1,139	51
OCN	44,588	15	25,657	58	21,526	48
Other	250,977	84	143,658	57	123,564	49
Grand Total	299,300	100	171,171	57	146,688	49

Source:
2007-08 ILR

In the 2008-09 academic year, there were 98,324 learners engaged in learning and skills provision in custody. There were 243,182 learning aims engaged by these learners and 37,780 (16%) of these aims were related to specific aim types. Completion rate for total aims were 59% and achievement rate for the same group of aims were at 51%.

Table 3: 2008-09 F05 Full academic year ILR data (LSC funded provision in custody): Includes custody aims enrolled by all learners — there were 98,324 learners in custody identified in the 2008-09 academic year who were engaged in LSC funded provision.

Aim Type	*Aims enrolled*	*% aims*	*Completed*	*% completed*	*Achieved*	*% achieved*
Access to HE	13	0	63	485	0	0
GCE A/AS/A2 level	190	0	48	25	25	13
GCSE	827	0	310	37	193	23
GNVQ precursor	77	0	46	60	44	57
NVQ	2,639	1	1,125	43	981	37
OCN	34,034	14	20,607	61	16,739	49
Other	205,402	84	121,596	59	106,016	52
Grand Total	243,182	100	143,732	59	123,998	51

Notes:
1. The data above includes data for those learners who are aged 15-17.
2. The ILR for 2006-07 academic year data provided may include a small amount of enrolments by those who are serving their sentence in the community.
Source:
2008-09 Full academic year ILR

Information relating to non-OLASS qualifications is not held centrally by NOMS.

A review on offender education led jointly by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Ministry of Justice is currently underway and is due to report to Ministers before Christmas. I expect the review to address issues such as the efficiency of education delivery, the types of qualifications made available to prisoners and the measurement of both participation and completion of various qualifications.

Joint work is also underway with the Skills Funding Agency to improve analysis of both participation and completion data across different types of qualifications.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his latest estimate is of spending from the public purse on education services for prisoners in each of the next five years. [22212]

Mr Blunt: Responsibility for the funding of prisoner education rests with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS). BIS is still working through the detail of the comprehensive spending review and information will be announced as soon as possible.

In 2010-11, BIS plans to spend £168 million[1] on offender learning in English public sector prisons.

[1] Excludes spend associated with the employment of Heads of Learning and Skills in prisons, libraries and higher education in public sector prisons in England.

Prisons: Food

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average calorific value was of food served to *(a)* male and *(b)* female prisoners each day in the latest period for which figures are available. [22210]

Mr Blunt: Information relating to the average daily calorie count in food served to prisoners is not recorded centrally.

The National Offender Management Service Catering Operating Manual includes advice and guidance for specific consumer groups published by the Food Standards Agency—'Guidance on Food Served to Adults in Major Institutions'. This guidance recommends 2,043 (kcals) per day for adult males and 1,574 (kcals) for adult females.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost of meeting each type of special dietary requirement in prison establishments was in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many prisoners were recorded as having each type of special dietary requirement in the latest period for which figures are available. [22211]

Mr Blunt: Prisons offer a range of meals that enable prisoners to make preferred choices using a multi-choice menu system, including meals suited to their dietary, religious or cultural needs, including kosher, halal, vegetarian, vegan and other dietary requirements. Menu choices should reflect the establishment's population ethnicity.

Information relating to the cost of providing all the different types of meals is not recorded centrally and is included within the overall prison food budgets.

For 2009-10, the last full financial year for which figures are available, the average public sector Prison Service daily food cost per prisoner in England and Wales was £2.20[1].

[1] The daily food cost has been calculated using available management information from NOMS finance systems and assumes that all transactions have been allocated and recorded against the correct accounting codes.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of the food purchased for prisoners was wasted in each year since 1997; and what the monetary value was of the food wasted. [22213]

Mr Blunt: While this information is not collected centrally the National Offender Management Service does nonetheless take its commitment for effective waste management seriously. To assist in reducing food waste we consider it essential that all food waste from prison serveries is recorded, costed and analysed locally, at least on a weekly basis.

Prison Service Instruction 41/2003 sets out the Sustainable Development policy and strategy for public sector prisons. Integral to the waste management component of this strategy has been the introduction of in-vessel composting technology at 50 prisons with the objective of realising the economical value of waste food by processing it into usable product. These initiatives also support the prison's performance in meeting the "Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate" targets.

Prisons: Video Games

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many inmates *(a)* at HMP Maidstone and *(b)* on the prison estate have access to (i) games consoles and (ii) televisions. [21481]

Mr Blunt: Access to in-cell television is a key earnable privilege and available to prisoners who are on the standard or enhanced level of the Incentives and Earned Privileges (IEP) scheme. Eligible prisoners pay a rental amount of a £1 per set per week.

Access to games consoles is restricted to prisoners who are on the enhanced level of the IEP scheme. Since 23 July 2008, no public funds have been used to purchase games consoles or games for adult prisoners. They must be purchased by the prisoner or his/her family or friends.

As of 30 September, 593 prisoners at HM Prison Maidstone were on the standard or enhanced levels of the IEP scheme and therefore eligible to rent a TV set and 386 were on the enhanced level and eligible to have a games console of their own in their possession. The equivalent figures for the prison estate as a whole were 83,017 and 36,202 respectively.

To establish how many of those eligible actually had a games console of their own would necessitate asking each prisoner individually at disproportionate cost.

Prisons: Violence

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders in each prison establishment committed an assault on *(a)* another offender and *(b)* a prison officer in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [21960]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) holds prison-level data on the numbers of assault incidents rather than the number of prisoners involved or whether a prisoner is involved in multiple incidents. This information could be obtained only by examining local records manually at disproportionate cost.

The following table gives numbers of prisoner-on-prisoner assaults by establishment. The figures for prisons with less than six incidents are omitted in accordance with NOMS data protection policy, as this could enable individuals to be identified.

Recorded prisoner-on-prisoner assaults by prison, October 2009 to September 2010[1]

Prison	*Number*
Acklington	69
Altcourse	259
Ashfield	362
Ashwell	8
Askham Grange	—
Aylesbury	206
Bedford	88
Belmarsh	36
Birmingham	90
Blundeston	37
Brinsford	48
Bristol	52
Brixton	83
Bronzefield	75
Buckley Hall	30
Bullingdon	87

Recorded prisoner-on-prisoner assaults by prison, October 2009 to September 2010[1]

Prison	*Number*
Bullwood Hall	11
Bure	10
Canterbury	34
Cardiff	12
Castington	247
Channings Wood	48
Chelmsford	139
Coldingley	18
Cookham Wood	131
Dartmoor	25
Deerbolt	251
Doncaster	201
Dorchester	26
Dovegate	104
Dover Immigration Removal Centre	36
Downview	21
Drake Hall	24
Durham	96
Eastwood Park	25
Edmunds Hill	36
Elmley	64
Erlestoke	27
Everthorpe	59
Exeter	68
Featherstone	49
Feltham	641
Ford	—
Forest Bank	224
Foston Hall	10
Frankland	52
Full Sutton	52
Garth	57
Gartree	8
Glen Parva	389
Gloucester	46
Grendon/Spring Hill—Grendon	—
Giendon/Spring Hill—Spring Hill	—
Guys Marsh	54
Haslar	—
Haverigg	54
High Down	115
Highpoint	57
Hindley	255
Hewell	147
Holloway	33
Holme House	102
Hull	92
Huntercombe	148
IOW—Albany	21
IOW—Camp Hill	49
IOW—Parkhurst	35
Kennet	24
Kingston	—
Kirklevington	—
Lancaster	—
Lancaster Castle	—
Lancaster Farms	223
Latchmere House	—
Leeds	75
Leicester	45
Lewes	76
Leyhill	—
Lincoln	61
Lindholme	44
Littlehey	58
Liverpool	217
Long Lartin	35
Low Newton	47
Lowdham Grange	35
Maidstone	10
Manchester	146
Moorland	85
Moorland Open (Hatfield)	—
Morton Hall	16
Mount	57
New Hall	24
North Sea Camp	8
Northallerton	94
Norwich	43
Nottingham	58
Onley	126
Parc	362
Pentonville	215
Peterborough	231
Portland	137
Preston	108
Ranby	77
Reading	45
Risley	61
Rochester	209
Rye Hill	25
Send	14
Sheppey—Elmley	30
Sheppey—Standford Hill	—
Sheppey—Swaleside	21
Shrewsbury	16
Stafford	69
Standford Hill	
Stocken	53
Stoke Heath	417
Styal	28
Swaleside	28
Swansea	16
Swinfen Hall	86
Thorn Cross	19
Usk\Prescoed	9
Verne	13
Wakefield	35
Wandsworth	70
Warren Hill	271
Wayland	70
Wealstun	34
Wellingborough	87
Werrington	144
Wetherby	392
Wharton	14
Whitemoor	35
Winchester	34
Wolds	33
Woodhill	62
Wormwood Scrubs	148
Wymott	46

[1] Numbers less than 6 are not provided.

The latest data on assaults by prisoners on staff covering the years 2000 to 2009 are published on the MoJ website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/safety-custody-assaults-statistics-0710.xls

The figures for 2010 will be available in early 2011.

Violence in prisons is not tolerated. NOMS is working with the police and the Crown Prosecution Service to ensure that perpetrators of violence in prisons are dealt with through the courts where is appropriate to do so.

Prisons: Visits

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what funding his Department provided to families to visit prison inmates in the last 12 months. [21724]

Mr Blunt: The amount spent on assisted prison visits in the financial year 2009-10 was £2,343,132. In the last 12 calendar months, October 2009 to September 2010 the amount was £2,261,505. This excludes administration costs.

Rape: Sentencing

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average length of sentence handed down to a person convicted of rape was in each of the last five years. [22853]

Mr Blunt: The average custodial sentence length (ACSL) for rape offences in England and Wales in each year since 2005 can be found in the following table. ACSL excludes life/indeterminate sentences.

Average custodial sentence length (ACSL)[1] (months) for rape offences[2], England and Wales, 2005-09[4] [5]

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Average custodial sentence length	81.7	81.1	85.4	90.3	95.7
Number of determinate sentences	673	602	607	669	759
Number of indeterminate sentences[3]	74	202	214	196	182
Total sentenced to immediate custody	47	804	821	865	941

[1] ACSL excludes life/indeterminate sentences.

[2] Includes attempted rape.

[3] Life sentences and indeterminate sentences for public protection.

[4] The figures given in the table relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[5] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics—Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

China: Foreign Investment in UK

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on attracting direct investment from China to the UK. [21948]

Mr Jeremy Browne: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed China with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, and other Ministers, on 1 November 2010 ahead of my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's and other ministerial visits to China later this week. The Government are committed to expanding relations with China. Encouraging further investment from China into the UK, as well as UK investment in China, will be a significant element of the Prime Minister's visit.

Colombia

Jim McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the release of Carmelo Agamez from prison in Colombia. [21747]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We have not received any reports of the release of Mr Agamez. A number of individuals who had been detained as part of the same investigation as Mr Agamez were released on 9 October 2009 but he remains in prison. On 25 October 2010 the Colombian Attorney-General's office informed our embassy in Bogota that Mr Agamez's case had been sent to the specialised circuit of the Penal Court of Sincelejo in the province of Sucre on 10 September.

Our embassy in Bogota has made numerous representations in respect of Mr Agamez's case. These include a letter on 5 March to former Vice President Francisco Santos and another on 27 August to the Presidential Programme on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law. On 9 September (Colombian Human Rights Day) the Deputy Head of Mission at our embassy in Bogota took part in an Oxfam GB event as part of their campaign on human rights defenders. The case of Mr Agamez was one of the main issues discussed.

Jim McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of allegations of collaboration by elements of the Colombian Army in drugs trafficking in Guaviare and Vichada provinces. [21748]

Mr Jeremy Browne: On 17 October a professional soldier accused other members of the Colombian armed forces of involvement in drug trafficking in Guaviare and Vichada. The allegations included accepting payments from the illegal paramilitary group Ejército Revolucionario Popular Anticomunista Colombiano to maintain trafficking routes; use of the proceeds by one colonel to establish his own drug laboratory; and extra-judicial killings. The Human Rights Unit of the Attorney-General's Office is conducting an investigation into the allegations.

Jim McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the number of people subject to forced displacement who have been killed in Colombia in the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [21848]

Mr Jeremy Browne: According to Government of Colombia figures 317 internally displaced persons were killed in 2007, 363 in 2008 and 553 in 2009. These figures equate to 1.9%, 2.4% and 3.1% respectively of the total number of homicides in that year.

Officially Colombia has 3.3 million internally displaced people, although the real figure is more likely to be around 4.5 million. This is the second highest rate in the world. Indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities are particularly vulnerable, mainly because they occupy land of strategic importance to guerrilla groups, cocaine cultivation or narco-trafficking.

In 2009 the Government of Colombia reported a 56% reduction in the forced displaced population and estimated that 80% had access to basic health services. We are working with Colombia to help improve the situation of internally displaced people.

Jim McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of the number of active trade union members who were killed in Colombia in 2010. [21849]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Government of Colombia figures show that 19 trade union members were killed between 1 January and 17 June. This compares with 28 in the whole of 2009 and 196 in 2002. The UK is concerned about the safety of trade unionists in Colombia. We regularly raise our concerns with the Colombian Government.

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the number of indigenous people killed in Colombia in 2010; what discussions he has had with the UN Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Rights on that matter; and if he will make a statement. [22207]

Mr Jeremy Browne: My Department has not made an estimate of the number of indigenous people killed in 2010. Figures from the National Indigenous Organisation of Colombia suggest that at least 114 indigenous women, men and children were killed in 2009.

Our embassy in Bogota funded the visit of UN Special Rapporteur James Anaya to Colombia in July 2009. During his visit Mr Anaya congratulated the government for the "significant initiatives" undertaken, particularly in the area of health and education, to improve the difficult situation faced by the indigenous community.

However, significant obstacles remain in the effort to realise the rights of indigenous people, particularly in the areas of land rights, forced displacement, nutrition, threats and murders. Officials at our embassy in Bogota have visited a number of indigenous communities to show support and hear at first hand about the difficulties they face. This has included visits to the Awa community in Narino and the Emberas community in Choco. Our embassy is also funding a project to enhance the judicial system and combat impunity in Cauca. Indigenous communities here represent 21.5% of the entire indigenous population in Colombia and are the victims of most human rights abuses.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for how many days on average his Department's staff in each pay grade were absent from work as a result of ill health in 2009-10. [18579]

Alistair Burt: Information is available only for Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff in the UK. Information for FCO staff overseas is available only at disproportionate cost.

The number of days on average staff in each paid grade were absent from work as a result of ill health in 2009-10 are:

Average working days lost

Grade equivalent	*Number*
AA	8.6
AO	8.9
EO	5.0
HEA	3.8
SEO	4.3
G7	3.2
G6	1.7
SCS	1.0
Unknown	5.3

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he made of the cost to his Department of sickness absence in each year since 1997. [18770]

Alistair Burt: Information requested is available only for Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff in the UK. Information for FCO staff overseas is available only at disproportionate cost.

Relevant comprehensive central records are held by the FCO only for the financial years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10. The nominal salary cost to the FCO of days lost through sickness in each of these years is broken down as follows:

	£
2007-08	5,124,042.40
2008-09	4,496,243.20
2009-10	5,175,747.30

Details for the previous years are not held centrally or available in the form requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Under our sickness absence management policy and procedures, staff are required to enter details of any sickness absences they have on our online human resources system. Line managers are then required to verify that the absences have been correctly entered. This measure is in place to ensure we have an accurate record of sickness absence and are able to deal promptly with cases of excessive sick leave. Staff who fail to follow correct sickness absence procedures could face disciplinary action under the FCO Misconduct Procedures guidelines.

European Union: Fines

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what financial penalties are under consideration by the EU in relation to non-compliance by the UK with EU policies; what the value of those potential penalties is; and if he will make a statement. [22056]

Justine Greening: I have been asked to reply.

Provision already exists under Article 126(11) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union for the imposition of financial penalties on euro-area member states which are considered to be in excessive deficit and fail to comply with the Council's recommendations under the EU's Stability and Growth Pact. These cannot be applied to the UK since we are not a member of the euro-area. Moreover, our Protocol to the Treaty precludes use of any sanctions against the UK under this process.

The European Commission has recently published legislative proposals which create additional sanctions to encourage compliance by member states with the Stability and Growth Pact and the EU's Broad Economic Policy Guidelines. There are a variety of possible sanctions, extending up to fines of more than 0.2% of a member state's GDP for serious and repeated breaches of the Stability and Growth Pact. However, the draft proposals for sanctions relate only to euro-area member states and thus do not apply to the UK.

Gaza: Human Rights

Michael Ellis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of freedom of speech and the treatment of journalists in the Gaza Strip. [19983]

Alistair Burt: The UK is concerned by the treatment of Gazan journalists in recent months. This includes a violent attack against one journalist.

We recognise the rights of Palestinians under international law to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and freedom of association.

We will support effective international efforts to address impunity for attacks on journalists and practices which curtail the right to freedom of opinion and expression.

Palestinians: International Assistance

Richard Graham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of Israel on the importation of building materials into Gaza. [20674]

Alistair Burt: The UK welcomes the measures Israel announced in June to improve the flow of goods into Gaza. According to the UN in May, prior to the Israeli announcement, there were 2,794 trucks allowed into Gaza compared to 3,569 in September. However, this still falls significantly short of the required amount and we believe that more needs to be done to ensure full implementation and deliver real change on the ground. We continue to discuss these issues with the Government of Israel and the UN Relief and Works Agency.

Tajikistan: Religious Freedom

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to his counterpart in Tajikistan about the protection of religious freedom in that country. [21689]

Mr Lidington: We and our EU partners maintain a dialogue with the Government of Tajikistan on a range of human rights issues, including freedom of religion. The Permanent Under-Secretary of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office raised human rights with Foreign Minister Zarifi on 3 November during a visit to Tajikistan. We also raised issues of concern through the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe and the EU, including during the annual EU-Tajikistan Human Rights Dialogue. In doing so, we encourage the Tajik Government to act in accordance with its international obligations.

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to his counterpart in Tajikistan on levels of regulation and administrative burdens on religious organisations in that country. [21691]

Mr Lidington: We will continue to raise issues of human rights concern with the Government of Tajikistan—including those relating to freedom of religion—both bilaterally and through key international fora such as the EU and Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe. We also stand ready to assist Tajikistan as it embarks on its first Universal Periodic Review in the UN Human Rights Council in 2011. This is a comprehensive mechanism for reviewing the overall human rights records of UN member states.

Turkmenistan: Prisoners

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the government of Turkmenistan to enable international observers to provide medical support to Annakurban Amanklychev and Sapardurdy Khadzhiev. [21692]

Mr Lidington: We work closely with EU and other international partners on issues of human rights concern in Turkmenistan. The individual cases of Annakurban Amanklychev and Sapardurdy Khadzhiev were among those raised with the Turkmen authorities during the most recent annual EU-Turkmenistan Human Rights Dialogue that took place in June. The EU encouraged the Turkmen authorities to allow access to medical treatment.

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the government of Turkmenistan to increase the frequency of family visits for Annakurban Amanklychev and Sapardurdy Khadzhiev. [21693]

Mr Lidington: The cases of Mr Amanklychev and Mr Khadzhiev were raised with the Turkmen authorities during the annual EU-Turkmenistan Human Rights Dialogue in June 2010. In doing so, the EU stressed the importance of allowing visits by families to individuals in detention.

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the government of Turkmenistan for the release of Annakurban Amanklychev and Sapardurdy Khadzhiev. [21694]

Mr Lidington: The EU raised the issue of a possible amnesty for Mr Amanklychev and Mr Khadzhiev with the Turkmen authorities during the most recent EU-Turkmenistan Human Rights Dialogue. We will continue to look for opportunities to encourage the

Turkmen authorities to review their cases, to allow proper access to medical treatment, and to ensure that they benefit from adequate contact with their families.

Uganda: Politics and Government

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Ugandan government on the report of the Public Accounts Committee of the Ugandan Parliament on the abuse by government officials of funds allocated by his Department for the hosting of the 2007 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting; and if he will make a statement. [20033]

Mr Bellingham: My Department did not allocate funds for the hosting of the 2007 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM).

We have made clear our concerns about the allegations of abuse of Ugandan Government funds budgeted for CHOGM. The Uganda Parliament is currently debating the Public Accounts Committee's CHOGM report. We will continue to urge the relevant Ugandan authorities to ensure that action is taken on the issues raised by the Committee and by Uganda's Auditor-General in his audits of CHOGM expenditure.

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 25 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 25-6W, on Uganda: politics and government, what reports he has received on *(a)* the 22 October 2010 incident at the Electoral Commission following the visit by Dr Kizza Besigye and *(b)* the statement by Dr Besigye on the steps his party will take if the 2011 election is rigged; and if he will make a statement. [20899]

Mr Bellingham: I have received reports that Dr Besigye was denied entry to the offices of the Electoral Commission on 22 October. I understand that Mr Besigye has also said that the opposition parties he represents will announce their own election results rather than trust those declared by the Electoral Commission.

I have made the point to members of both the Government and Opposition parties in Uganda (including President Museveni and the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament) that all political parties need to engage peacefully and responsibly in the electoral process. Our high commission in Kampala is continuously engaged with representatives of all parties, and in addition has urged the Electoral Commission and police to fulfil their responsibilities impartially.

UK Membership of EU

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the total annual gross cost to *(a)* the public purse and *(b)* the UK economy as a result of the UK's membership of the European Union. [21945]

Justine Greening: I have been asked to reply.

The UK's projected gross contribution to the EU budget in 2010-11, after the UK abatement, is £12.5 billion. These figures can be found in the latest Public Expenditure Statistical Analysis document (see Table C1, page 176) at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pesa_2010_complete.pdf

The Treasury reviews, as part of its analysis of the EU economy, a wide range of studies by external commentators that attempt to assess the costs and benefits of EU membership.

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the total annual net cost or benefit to *(a)* the public purse and *(b)* the UK economy as a result of the UK's membership of the EU. [21949]

Justine Greening: I have been asked to reply.

The projected UK net contribution to the EU Budget in 2010-11, after the UK abatement and after public sector receipts from the EU Budget, is £7.7 billion. . These figures can be found in the latest Public Expenditure Statistical Analysis document (see Table C1, page 176) at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pesa_2010_complete.pdf

The Treasury reviews, as part of its analysis of the EU economy, a wide range of studies by external commentators that attempt to assess the costs and benefits of EU membership.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Early-Day Motions

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Leader of the House how many early-day motions were tabled in each Session since Session 1992-93. [22568]

Sir George Young: The information is shown in the following table.

Session	*Total number of EDMs tabled*
1992-93	2,595
1993-94	1,705
1994-95	1,591
1995-96	1,259
1996-97	728
1997-98	1,774
1998-99	1,011
1999-2000	1,201
2000-01	659
2001-02	1,864
2002-03	1,950
2003-04	1,954
2004-05	1,033
2005-06	2,924
2006-07	2,196
2007-08	2,560
2008-09	2,272
2009-10	1,248
2010-11 (As at 2 November 2010)	949

The total number of early-day motions (EDMs) tabled each Session is published in the House's Sessional Returns, available at:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmsesret.htm

A searchable database of EDMs is available at:

http://edmi.parliament.uk/edmi/

For some Sessions, the totals given include one or two EDMs which were tabled and withdrawn on the same sitting day, and so were given an EDM number but never appeared in print.

Sessions 1996-97, 2000-01, 2004-05 and 2009-10 were short, pre-general election Sessions; Sessions 1992-93, 1997-98, 2001-02 and 2005-06 were long, post-general election Sessions.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Leader of the House how many hon. Members did not sign a single early-day motion in *(a)* Session 2009-10 and *(b)* Session 2010-11 to date. [22569]

Sir George Young: The information is shown in the following table:

Hon. Members who did not sign a single early-day motion

Session	*Number*
2009-10	146
2010-11 (as at 4 November 2010)	204

In addition to Back-Bench Members who do not wish to sign early-day motions, this figure would include the Speaker and Deputy Speakers as well as Government Ministers and Whips and members of the Opposition parties' Front-Bench teams who do not sign early-day motions as a matter of convention.

At the start of the current Parliament and following a request from the Procedure Committee, the Table Office introduced a facility for Members who did not wish to sign any early-day motions to place a general block on their names being added to an early-day motion. 12 Members have made use of this facility so far this session.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Leader of the House how many early-day motions, other than motions praying against a statutory instrument, were subsequently moved by the original sponsor on the floor of the House in each session since session 2005-06. [22570]

Sir George Young: No early-day motions (EDMs), other than motions praying against a statutory instrument, have been subsequently moved by the original sponsor on the Floor of the House in any session since session 2005-06.

The text of an EDM has on occasion been adopted for use in a motion moved by a Member who was not the original sponsor. This occurred most recently in the case of the subsidiarity motion relating to draft directive to amend the Investor Compensation Schemes Directive, which was originally tabled as EDM 820 sponsored by the hon. Member for Stone (Mr Cash) on 14 October 2010 and was subsequently moved on the Floor of the House on 25 October 2010 by the Government. On 8 January 2008, the text of an EDM on higher education was used for an Opposition Day motion.

There are historical examples of EDMs being debated on rare occasions. It would be open to the Backbench Business Committee to find time for an EDM to be debated and moved on the Floor of the House by the original sponsor.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Leader of the House how many early-day motions tabled attracted *(a)* 200 signatures or more and *(b)* fewer than 10 signatures in each Session since Session 2005-06. [22572]

Sir George Young: The information is shown in the following table:

Session	*Number of EDMs with 200 signatures or more*	*Number of EDMs with fewer than 10 signatures*
2005-06	55	152
2006-07	30	136
2007-08	27	223
2008-09	33	152
2009-10	49	118
2010-11 (as at 3 November 2010)	3	166

All EDMs since the start of the 1989-90 Session are available on the internet at:

http://edmi.parliament.uk/edmi/

which includes the full text as well as the number of signatures. EDMs before this Session are held in the parliamentary archives.

The most signatures recorded on an EDM was in the 2001-02 Session to Malcolm Savidge's motion on the need to avoid conflict between India and Pakistan, which attracted 502 signatures. Previously the record was 482 signatures for an EDM on service pensions tabled in 1964 by Sir Robert Cary. The House of Commons Library factsheet on EDMs provides a list of EDMs since 1939 which have attracted 300 or more signatures.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

House of Lords: Reform

Jesse Norman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what representations he has received from *(a)* academics and *(b)* other constitutional experts on his proposals for reform of the House of Lords. [21911]

Mr Harper: To date, one letter has been received from an academic. The Government's detailed proposals for reform of the House of Lords will be published in a draft Bill early next year. It is anticipated that this will generate interest from many quarters including from constitutional experts and other academics.

Voting Rights: Prisoners

Mr Cash: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the oral answer to the right hon. Member for Tooting (Sadiq Khan) of 2 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 771, on prisoners right to vote, if he will make an assessment of the implications for his proposals to extend to prisoners the right to vote of the lecture given by the Lord Chief Justice on 17 March 2010, on the obligations of UK courts in respect of the European Court of Human Rights. [22613]

Mr Harper: The Lord Chief Justice's lecture refers to the duty on domestic courts to take relevant judgments of the European Court of Human Rights into account. This duty is set out in section 2 of the Human Rights Act 1998.

This does not change the fact that the Government are obliged under the terms of the European Convention on Human Rights to abide by final judgments of the

Strasbourg court to which they are a party. The Government therefore accept there is a need to amend the law following the Hirst judgment in 2005. The Government are actively considering this and work is continuing.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what steps she is taking to ensure that the Government's undertakings in respect of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women are fulfilled. [22414]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government are strongly committed to fulfilling their international obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), which is an essential tool to progress gender equality domestically and internationally.

The Minister for Women and Equalities has recently written to her ministerial colleagues, including those in the devolved Administrations, and has asked her officials to write to the British Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies. She highlighted the importance of CEDAW as a means of delivering gender equality; sought their support in promoting CEDAW within their Departments; and asked them for their cooperation and agreement in the preparation of the next report.

The Government will be submitting the UK seventh CEDAW periodic report to the United Nations in May 2011, as scheduled and will fully engage in the Committee's examination process, expected in 2012.

The Government Equalities Office, which is responsible for overseeing and promoting the delivery of UK commitments to CEDAW, has put in place mechanisms to consult with non-governmental organisations and women's organisations on the UK's progress on CEDAW.

Departmental Redundancy

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what estimate she has made of the number of redundancies at the Government Equalities Office arising from the spending reductions proposed in the comprehensive spending review. [21566]

Lynne Featherstone: Determining optimal workforce reforms in order to live within the Government Equalities Office spending review resource DEL settlement will be an ongoing process. Detailed decisions regarding the number of redundancies that may be required have yet to be finalised.

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what estimate she has made of the cost to the Government Equalities Office of staff redundancy in each of the next four years. [21567]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government Equality Office's (GEOs) budget covers the operations of the GEO and its surviving non-departmental public body, the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC). The reduced role for the EHRC set out in the findings of the Public Bodies Review means that the Commission's workforce will reduce considerably over the next four years. GEOs staff will also reduce. No precise estimate of the costs of redundancies is possible given that the amounts payable are still to be decided and the numbers being made redundant will depend on other factors such as natural wastage.

Discrimination

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities if she will bring forward legislative proposals to create an offence of discrimination against those who have been physically disfigured. [21686]

Maria Miller: I have been asked to reply.

Specific provisions in the Equality Act 2010 enable a person with a severe disfigurement (other than a tattoo or piercing) to gain the protection of the Act as a disabled person. The Equality Act 2010 makes it unlawful for a disabled person to be subjected to direct discrimination, indirect discrimination, or discrimination arising from disability. In addition it is a form of unlawful discrimination to fail to make a reasonable adjustment for a disabled person.

In general, the civil courts and tribunals determine contraventions of the discrimination provisions in the Equality Act 2010. While there are certain criminal offences for particular situations, there are no plans to criminalise contraventions of the Act in general or in this particular case.

Equality Act 2010

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what plans she has to implement the dual discrimination provisions of the Equality Act 2010. [21850]

Lynne Featherstone: The majority of the Equality Act was commenced on 1 October. The Government are considering how best to take forward the remainder of the Act, including the dual discrimination provisions, in the best way for business and others with rights and responsibilities under the Act.

Mr Raab: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what estimate she has made of the cost to the *(a)* Government Equalities Office and *(b)* Equality and Human Rights Commission of reviewing the publications listed in sections 2 and 3 of the draft Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) Regulations 2011. [22743]

Lynne Featherstone: The Equality and Human Rights Commission will continue to monitor compliance with equality legislation, in line with its statutory requirements. No separate estimate has been made of the costs of reviewing documentation under these regulations as part of that work, although any costs will be contained within the spending settlement for the Government Equalities Office budget announced on 20 October. The purpose of these regulations is to promote transparency and democratic accountability. They will ensure citizens and civil society groups have the necessary data and evidence to hold public bodies to account, and to apply public pressure to drive a faster pace of change.

Mr Raab: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what estimate has she made of the cost to the public bodies affected arising from implementation of sections 2 and 3 of the draft Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) Regulations 2011. [22744]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government estimate that implementing the new regulations will save public bodies around £17 million in the first year and £25 million each year thereafter, compared to the regulations they will replace. The consultation document on the draft regulations includes a regulatory impact assessment which sets out these savings in detail. The consultation document is available on the Government Equalities Office website at:

www.equalities.gov.uk

LGBT History Month

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how much the Government Equalities Office spent under each budget heading on the LGBT History Month event in February 2010. [22063]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government Equalities Office spent a total £3,768 on the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender History Month. These costs relate to the venue only.

TREASURY

AgustaWestland

Ian Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received on financial assistance for AgustaWestland since his appointment. [21405]

Danny Alexander *[holding answer 2 November 2010]:* To the best of my knowledge, the Department has not received any representations on financial assistance for AgustaWestland since the election.

Ian Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the assistance provided to AgustaWestland proposed in the spending review is a loan or a grant. [21407]

Danny Alexander *[holding answer 2 November 2010]:* The final form of the assistance is subject to detailed ongoing negotiations with the company.

Crown Currency Exchange

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to assist those affected by the entry into administration of Crown Currency Exchange. [21429]

Mr Hoban: The administrators of Crown Currency Exchange are reviewing the position of customers who were left with outstanding orders. The administrators will contact customers to confirm that the completion of currency orders has been suspended and to provide details of the next steps in the administration process.

The administrators will review Crown's trading operations, its financial position and the conduct of its directors. Once the administrators have reported, the Government will look closely at this case to see what lessons need to be learned from the failure of the company.

Departmental Early Retirement

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have been offered enhanced early retirement packages in each of the last three years. [22029]

Justine Greening: The number of staff leaving HM Treasury and its agencies receiving enhanced terms under the Civil Service Compensation Scheme in the last three complete years for which figures are available are shown in the following table. Where information relates to staff numbers fewer than five, it is the Department's policy not to disclose data if this could lead to the identification of protected personal information about individual members of staff.

Department/ agency	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
HM Treasury	[1]—	[1]—	0
Debt Management Office	0	[1]—	0

[1] Fewer than five.

EU Budget

Mr Davidson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer from what budgets the share of the increase in the EU budget for 2011 which is attributable to the UK will be drawn. [21764]

Justine Greening: In accordance with European Communities Act (2008), UK contributions to the EU budget are paid directly from the Consolidated Fund. Discussions on the EU budget for 2011 are now in the conciliation process and no budget has yet been agreed.

Mental Health

Jo Swinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the recommendations relevant to his Department's policy responsibilities contained in the Foresight Report on Mental Capital and Wellbeing by the Government Office for Science; if he will ensure that his Department takes steps to promote well-being; if he will ensure that his Department's policy development process takes account of psychological research into subjective well-being; and if he will make a statement. [22205]

Justine Greening: The spending review prioritised spending on health, with funding for the NHS growing by 0.4% in real terms over the spending review period. This will allow for new policies to improve mental health and well-being, such as further expansion of access to talking therapies, including for the young and elderly, and additional investment in veterans' mental health services, as recommended by the Murrison review. More details will be set out in a mental health strategy which will be published early in the new year, informed by the Foresight Report on Mental Capital and Wellbeing and, as with all Government strategies, other sources of research into relevant areas.

HM Treasury's Health and Safety Policy sets out a commitment to the prevention of work-related physical and mental ill-health. The Department supports the mental well-being of staff with welfare advice and counselling through a confidential, 24/7 helpline and communications on the prevention and management of stress in order to prevent mental ill-health.

Office for Budget Responsibility

Mary Creagh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what contact *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department had with the Office for Budget Responsibility on (i) 29 June, (ii) 30 June and (iii) 1 July 2010. [9129]

Justine Greening *[holding answer 19 July 2010]:* The interim Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) was established on 17 May 2010 to make an independent assessment of the public finances and the economy for the emergency Budget. The Budget Responsibility Committee (BRC) had direct control over the forecasts, made all the key judgments that drive the official projections, and had discretion over what material was published.

Ministers did not meet with the BRC between 29 June and 1 July 2010. Members of the BRC met with Treasury Ministers on five occasions between May 2010 and middle of July 2010 to brief them on the OBR forecasts and provide advice on the permanent arrangements for the OBR forecasts and provide advice on the permanent arrangements for the OBR. Further details are set out in the National Audit Office report of the 22 June 2010.

Treasury officials were in contact with the OBR on an ongoing basis as part of the process of forecast production and publication.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons the preparation of an environmental sustainability assessment such as that contained in previous pre-Budget reports was not included in the remit for the Office for Budget Responsibility. [22643]

Justine Greening: The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) will have a duty to examine and report on the sustainability of the public finances, as set out in the Budget Responsibility and National Audit Bill. Beyond the reporting requirements set out in the Bill, the OBR will have complete discretion in the work it undertakes insofar as these relate to its duty and expertise to examine and report on the sustainability of the public finances.

The Government will remain responsible for assessing environmental impacts of Government policy, including the requirement to consider and publish the environmental impacts of policy proposals as set out in Green Book guidance.

Public Expenditure

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the merits of the sale of *(a)* British Waterways, *(b)* the Dartford Crossing, *(c)* the Defence Storage and Distribution Agency, *(d)* High Speed 1, *(e)* the Land Registry, *(f)* the Met Office, *(g)* NATS, *(h)* NHS Professionals, *(i)* the Oil and Pipelines Agency—Government Pipeline and Storage System, *(j)* Ordnance Survey, *(k)* Public Forest Estate England, *(l)* Public Sector Spectrum Holdings, *(m)* The Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, *(n)* The Royal Mint, *(o)* the Student Loans Portfolio, *(p)* The Tote, *(q)* Trust Ports, *(r)* URENCO, *(s)* the Royal Mail, *(t)* the 800MHz and 2.6GHz spectrum and *(u)* other public sector parts of the spectrum suitable for mobile communication purposes. [19879]

Danny Alexander: Following an assessment, the Government have already made announcements regarding some of the assets outlined, some at the June Budget, and others at the spending review. By way of example, we have launched a full sale of High Speed 1 and introduced enabling legislation for Royal Mail. Decisions will be taken on NATS, the Student Loan Book and the Tote by Budget 2011.

The Government assesses their holdings of assets on an ongoing basis, including all of the ones on the list. For commercial reasons we would not want to speculate on decisions the Government might reach with regards to any particular asset, as a result of our assessments.

If the Government were to decide to pursue a transaction on any of these assets, an announcement would be made at an appropriate opportunity.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has for the future of end-year flexibility. [22041]

Danny Alexander: As set out in Spending Review 2010, the Government are abolishing the end-year flexibility scheme at the end of 2010-11, including all accumulated stocks, and replacing it with a new system from 2011-12 which will retain an incentive for Departments to avoid wasteful end-year spending and strengthen spending control. Further detail will be set out later this financial year in the Treasury's "Consolidated Budgeting Guidance".

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what he expects the monetary value of end-year flexibility to be in each Department at the end of this financial year. [22044]

Danny Alexander: Table 6 of the "Public Expenditure 2009-10: Provisional Outturn White Paper" details the carry forward of notional DEL end-year flexibility (EYF) stocks from 2009-10 into 2010-11.

Spending Review 2010 announced that the end-year flexibility (EYF) system is to be abolished at the end of 2010-11, including all accumulated stocks, and replaced with a new system from 2011-12 which will retain an incentive for Departments to avoid wasteful end-year spending and strengthen spending control. Further detail will be set out later this financial year in the "Consolidated Budgeting Guidance".

As a result of this announcement, there will be no such carry forward of notional EYF stocks from 2010-11 into 2011-12.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of job losses attributable to the comprehensive spending review measures in the *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector in each year of the spending review period. [22139]

Danny Alexander: The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) released its projections for whole economy employment to 2015-16 on 22 June 2010, as part of its Budget forecasts.

Further information on its employment forecast, including projections for general government employment, was released on 30 June 2010 in its document "OBR forecast: Employment", which can be found on the following webpage:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/publications.html

The OBR latest forecast reflects the degree of fiscal consolidation of the 2010 Spending Review, as announced in the Budget. The OBR will update its forecasts on 29 November.

Public Expenditure: Northern Ireland

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether there will be Barnett consequentials for Northern Ireland as a result of the Government's proposals for the future funding of higher education. [22573]

Danny Alexander: The Government's proposals for the future funding of higher education in England will be funded from within the Government's spending plans announced on 20 October, on which the Northern Ireland Executive has already received Barnett consequentials.

Redundancy: North West

Helen Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector jobs held by (i) women and (ii) men in (A) Warrington and (B) the North West that will be lost as a result of the implementation of the outcomes of the comprehensive spending review. [22338]

Danny Alexander: The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) released its projections for whole economy employment to 2015-16 as part of its Budget forecasts on 22 June 2010.

Further information on its employment forecast, including its projections for general government employment, was released on 30 June 2010 in the document 'OBR forecast: Employment', which can be found on the following webpage:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/publications.html

The latest OBR forecast reflects the degree of fiscal consolidation announced in the Budget and consistent with the 2010 spending review. The OBR will update its forecasts on 29 November 2010.

The OBR has not published forecasts on a sub-national level or by gender.

State Retirement Pensions: Uprating

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has received legal advice on the use of the consumer prices index for measuring movements in the general level of prices for the purposes of *(a)* section 59 of the Social Security Pensions Act 1975 and *(b)* section 151 of the Social Security Administration Act 1992. [22324]

Steve Webb: I have been asked to reply.

Advice was taken on the legality of the use of the consumer prices index as the measure of the general level of prices in the context of the Secretary of State's statutory duty under section 150 of the Social Security Administration Act 1992. Neither section 151 of that Act nor section 59 of the Social Security Pensions Act 1975 require the Secretary of State to measure movements in the general level of prices.

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received on the proposed use of the consumer prices index for the indexation of *(a)* benefits, *(b)* tax credits and *(c)* pensions. [22325]

Justine Greening: Engagement with the public and external experts has demonstrated a strong consensus in support of action to tackle the deficit and secure economic stability. It has also revealed broad agreement that spending reductions should be balanced across public services and welfare payments, rather than just focused on the former. Regarding the switch to the consumer prices index (CPI) for the indexation of benefits, tax credits and public sector pensions, a number of economic commentators have endorsed the Government's assessment that the CPI has advantages over the retail prices index, including that it better represents the real behaviour of consumers in substituting away from goods which have become relatively more expensive towards cheaper goods.

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he sought advice from the UK Statistics Authority prior to his decision to propose the use of the consumer prices index for the indexation of pensions. [22326]

Steve Webb: I have been asked to reply.

The Department made use of a range of information provided by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) regarding price inflation indices. The UK Statistics Authority has oversight of the ONS.

Taxation: Private Rented Housing

Phil Wilson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many cases HM Revenue and Customs have brought against landlords for non-payment of tax on rental income since 2007. [19095]

Mr Gauke: In the period 2007-10, the vast majority of interventions (cases) undertaken by HMRC into landlords for mis-declaration of rental income originate from our National Property Project. A small number of interventions originating from other projects may also have included rental income queries.

This project began in March 2007. From that date until the end of June 2010, HMRC:

identified 44,413 such interventions; and

finalised 36,631 of these interventions.

Taxation: Wales

Guto Bebb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many single income families with a household income of between £43,875 and £50,000 remit their taxes to an HM Revenue and Customs office located in Wales. [22069]

Mr Gauke: The information requested is not available. Most of these individuals will have tax deducted via Pay As You Earn (PAYE) by their employer, who will remit tax to HMRC on their behalf. Almost all PAYE is remitted to HMRC's two main Accounts Offices in Cumbernauld and Shipley regardless of where the employer or employee are located.

VAT: Private Education

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to review the value added tax exemption for private schools. [21997]

Mr Gauke: European law exempts certain suppliers of education from VAT, meaning that private schools do not charge VAT on the services they provide and are unable to recover VAT they incur on their costs. The Government have no plans to review these VAT rules.

Welfare Tax Credits: Livingston

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households in Livingston constituency are in receipt of tax credits. [22072]

Mr Gauke: The latest information on the number of families benefiting from child and working tax credits, by each parliamentary constituency, local authority and region is available in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Geographical Analyses. April 2010". This can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-apr2010.pdf

This publication shows that 12,500 families in Livingston receive tax credits.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Ian Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to provide a substantive answer to question 21407, on AugustaWestland, tabled on 28 October 2010 for named day answer on 2 November 2010. [22622]

Danny Alexander: I have now replied to the hon. Member.

TRANSPORT

A1: Hatfield

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects the refurbishment work and associated lane closures at the A1 Hatfield Tunnel to end; and what the initial scheduled date was for the completion of the project. [22692]

Mike Penning: The refurbishment work and associated lane closures at the Hatfield Tunnel are scheduled to end in May 2011. The initial schedule date for completion of the project was spring 2011.

Aviation: Northern Ireland

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has had discussions with the Minister for Regional Development in the Northern Ireland Executive on the merits of *(a)* devolution to the Northern Ireland Assembly of responsibility for aviation in Northern Ireland and *(b)* an aviation strategy for Northern Ireland. [21189]

Mrs Villiers: The Secretary of State has not had any discussions with the Minister for Regional Development in the Northern Ireland Executive on these matters.

Aviation: Security

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what dates since 11 May 2010 he has met representatives of the aviation industry to discuss security matters; and what items were on the agenda on each occasion. [22482]

Mr Philip Hammond: I have frequent meetings with aviation industry representatives and the critical importance of aviation security means that this issue is almost always discussed in some form.

I met with a wide range of representatives from the aviation industry on 4 November, including UK airports, UK airlines and air freight operators, to discuss the recent air cargo security incident.

A full list of ministerial meetings with external organisations is published quarterly on my Department's website at the following address:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/datasets/disclosure-ministerial-external-meetings-dft-may-jul2010.csv

Bus Services: Finance

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with the Confederation of Passenger Transport on the likely effects on *(a)* bus fares and *(b)* service levels of the reduction in Bus Service Operators Grant proposed in the spending review. [22267]

Norman Baker: I spoke to the Confederation of Passenger Transport UK, who represent the bus industry, following the Chancellor's announcement on 20 October. They were hopeful that, in general, this reduction could be absorbed without fares having to rise.

Cycling

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff directly employed by his Department have worked on cycling issues in *(a)* each of the last five years and *(b)* 2010; and how many such staff he expects to work on cycling issues in each of the next three years. [20198]

Norman Baker: It is not possible to give a meaningful figure of the number of staff working on cycling issues in each of the last five years. Many different teams in the Department for Transport contribute to cycling policy as part of their wider responsibilities, for instance in relation to road safety, communications, research or traffic management.

For the last three years, including 2010, there have been around 20 people directly employed by Department for Transport in the Sustainable Travel team. Not all these people spend 100% of their time devoted to cycling issues. Since 2008 this includes three staff members specifically employed to work on Cycling England programme delivery.

Future staffing requirements are currently being determined, following spending review announcements.

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* children and *(b)* adults have received national standards cycle training in each of the last five years. [20204]

Norman Baker: The Government have been funding National Standard and Bikeability cycle training in schools since 2006-07 with detailed monitoring of delivery in place since 2007-08. Details of the training delivered are set out in the following table for the period 2006-07 to 2009-10.

				Number
	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Local authorities	9,000	27,000	74,000	102,000
School Sports Partnerships	4,000	8,000	21,000	66,000

Note:

Figures are rounded up to the nearest 1,000.

The figures are based on returns from local authorities and School Sports Partnerships.

Although we do not have an accurate figure for training places funded and delivered by local authorities in England in addition to those funded by the Government, we estimate local authorities outside of London deliver between 20,000 and 30,000 additional Level 2 National Standard or Bikeability places each year.

The Government do not fund adult cycle training and therefore have no information on the number of adults receiving national standard training in past five years whether from local authorities or independent training companies.

The Government are committed to maintaining the integrity of Bikeability.

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* children and *(b)* adults he expects to receive national standards cycle training in (i) 2010 and (ii) each of the next four years. [20205]

Norman Baker: The Government have provided £11 million to fund 275,000 National Standard Level 2 Bikeability Training places in 2010-11. The Spending Review confirmed the Government's commitment to funding Bikeability training for the next four years. We will make an announcement as soon as possible on how the training will be delivered after March 2011.

In addition to those funded by the Government we estimate that between 20,000 to 30,000 additional Level 2 Bikeability places each year are delivered by local authorities in England.

The Government do not fund adult or Level 3 Bikeability cycle training and therefore has no information on the number of adults likely to receive national standard training in 2010-11 or in the future whether from local authorities or independent training companies.

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost has been of *(a)* delivering and *(b)* administering national standards cycle training programmes in each of the last six years. [20206]

Norman Baker: Grants and bursaries to deliver National Standard Level 2 cycle training since the Government began funding in 2006-07 are set out in the following table:

					£ million
	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Local authorities	0.35	1.1	3.1	5.4	6.0
School sports partnerships	0.17	0.350	1.1	4.0	5.0
Bursaries for new cycle trainers	0.127	0.121	0.3	0.5	0.5

Note:

£45,000 was made available for bursaries in 2005-06 to help start building capacity in cycle training prior to the funding of training places in 2006-07.

The current estimated cost of administering and developing Bikeability training in 2010-11 by way of grants and contracts in addition to Department for Transport/Cycling England staff costs addition to Department for Transport/Cycling England staff costs is £1,220,000. This combines both ongoing running costs and development costs that will not be repeated in future years.

Cycling: Safety

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward legislative proposals to require drivers of motor vehicles to keep a minimum of three feet away from cyclists on the highway. [22677]

Mike Penning: The Government have no plans to introduce such legislation. All drivers have a duty of care and consideration to other road users. Rules 163, 211-213 of The Highway Code advises drivers to give cyclists at least as much room as a car when overtaking and to give them plenty of room and pay attention to any sudden change in direction they may have to make.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each of its Ministers in *(a)* September and *(b)* October 2010. [21790]

Norman Baker: No hospitality costs have been incurred for events hosted by Ministers at the Department for Transport within these timescales.

High Speed Trains

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on the provision of a high-speed rail link between London and Scotland. [21033]

Mr Philip Hammond: In its Programme for Government, the coalition has set out its support for a truly national high speed rail network, while acknowledging that a project of this scale must be delivered in phases. I have recently asked High Speed Two Ltd to carry out further development work on plans for a Y-shaped network from London to Leeds and Manchester, which could cut journey times to Glasgow and Edinburgh to around three hours 30 minutes via high speed services through-running on to the conventional network.

In the longer term, the National Infrastructure Plan has set out the Government's intention to look at the options for further reducing journey times to Glasgow and Edinburgh, on which we will need to work in collaboration with the Scottish Government.

High Speed 2: North Staffordshire

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions *(a)* he has had and *(b)* he plans to have with representatives of businesses in the West Midlands on a rail station in North Staffordshire for the High Speed 2 line. [21277]

Mr Philip Hammond: I have had no discussions of this kind to date. I have asked HS2 Ltd to develop proposals for high speed railway routes from the West Midlands to both Manchester and Leeds. As a part of this work they will be assessing forecast demand for intermediate stations. If the analysis shows demand in a particular area, such that an additional station would add to the business case for HS2, I will ask them to look for station locations in partnership with the relevant local authorities and representative bodies.

High Speed 2: West Midlands

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what modelling *(a)* his Department and *(b)* High Speed Two (i) has undertaken and (ii) plans to undertake on possible stations on the Birmingham to Manchester section of the High Speed Two line. [21278]

Mr Philip Hammond: To date neither the Department for Transport nor High Speed 2 Ltd have undertaken any modelling on possible stops on the Birmingham to Manchester section of the proposed High Speed Two line.

I have recently asked High Speed 2 Ltd to carry out further development work on plans for a Y-shaped network from London to Leeds and Manchester and as a part of this work they will be assessing forecast demand for intermediate stations.

Local Sustainable Transport Fund

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the Local Sustainable Transport Fund will be open to bids from voluntary sector organisations. [20194]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport is currently preparing full guidance on the bidding process for the Local Sustainable Transport Fund which we intend to publish later in the year. This will set out among other things what bodies will be eligible to apply to the fund.

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of the Local Sustainable Transport Fund he estimates will be spent on *(a)* major public transport schemes and *(b)* local schemes to promote (i) travel by bus, (ii) cycling and (iii) walking. [20195]

Norman Baker: It will be for local partnerships—local transport authorities working with their communities—to identify the right solutions for their areas which are affordable, deliverable and meet the high level requirements of helping the economy and cutting carbon. The proportion of different scheme types that receive funding will depend upon the nature of the bids received.

Maritime and Coastguard Agency

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 18 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 624W, on the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, what estimate he has made of the cost of responding to incidents attributed to, or believed to be caused by, sky lanterns in the last 12 months; and what the average cost of responding to such incidents was when a *(a)* lifeboat and *(b)* helicopter responded. [21895]

Mike Penning: The information is not available in the format requested and to provide it would incur disproportionate costs.

The Maritime and Coastguard (MCA) does not routinely collate information relating to the costs of individual search and rescue missions. The majority of the agency's search and rescue costs, such as its rescue co-ordination centres and its contracted helicopters, are fixed and would be incurred even if not responding to incidents.

The MCA has no visibility of the costs associated with lifeboats as this is borne by either the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) or another independent lifeboat operator.

Motor Vehicles: Exports

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many certificates of permanent export for vehicles the Driving and Vehicle Licensing Agency issued in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010 to date. [22694]

Mike Penning: The number of permanent export certificates issued by the Driving and Vehicle Licensing Agency since 2008 is:

	Number
2008	24,850
2009	29,998
2010 January to end of October	14,207

Motor Vehicles: Testing

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he next plans to review MOT test fees; and if he will make a statement. [20275]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 28 October 2010]*: The Department for Transport does keep MOT fee levels under regular review and officials will be meeting with representatives of the MOT test trade next month where this issue will be on the agenda.

The fee maxima for the various classes of MOT test were last increased on 6 April 2010. The maximum fee for a car class test increased from £54 to £54.85. The proportion of this fee that goes to VOSA to cover its costs in administering the MOT scheme increased from £2 to £2.05.

National Aviation Security Committee

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what dates since 11 May 2010 he has met the National Aviation Security Committee; and what items were on the agenda of each such meeting. [22481]

Mr Philip Hammond: The National Aviation Security Committee, which is a high level strategic group which meets twice yearly, last met on 26 May 2010 under the chairmanship of the Director General for International Networks and Environments.

The agenda for this meeting comprised the following items:

Introduction and Welcome;

Threat assessment;

Report from the Executive Committee to National Aviation Security Committee;

Compliance;

Future Tasking for the Executive Committee;

Any Other Business.

My right hon. Friend the Minister of State is intending to chair the next meeting of the National Aviation Security Committee, scheduled for 29 November 2010.

Since the discovery of a potentially viable explosive device on an aircraft at East Midlands Airport on 29 October I have convened an ad hoc meeting with airport operators, airlines, freight and courier firms and have attended meetings of Cobra and the National Security Council.

Pollution: Liquefied Petroleum Gas

Mr Tom Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the potential contribution of vehicles operated on liquid petroleum gas to meeting targets for air quality. [21798]

Norman Baker: Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) can be used as a transport fuel in converted petrol vehicles. The Department for Transport commissioned testing with Tickford Powertrain of the air pollutant emissions of a number of such vehicles in 2006-07, the results of which can be found online:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/environment/research/cqvcf/euro3lpgrettrofitemissions/euro3report.pdf

The results of this testing showed that air pollutant emissions when these vehicles ran on LPG were similar to, but no lower than, those when running on petrol. Tailpipe CO_2 emissions from LPG were however around 11% lower than from petrol, due to the lower carbon content of the fuel. Based on this evidence, converting petrol vehicles to run on LPG is unlikely to have any air quality benefit.

Ports: Scotland

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much of his Department's capital expenditure was allocated to the *(a)* development and *(b)* overhaul of ports in Scotland in each year since 1997. [22607]

Mike Penning: Ports policy is devolved in Scotland and ports there, as in England, generally fund their investment on a commercial basis. However, during the period in question the following grant awards were made on behalf of Scottish Ministers for freight facilities:

	Grantee	*Facilities*	*Grant award (£)*
2002	Forth Ports	New Ro-Ro ferry terminal at Rosyth	10,968,529
2003	Clydeboyd Ltd	Extension of Corpach Pier (near Fort William)	3,328,005
2003	Iggesund Paperboard	Renovation of Portavadie Quay and upgrading of Forestry Road	223,338

Public Transport: Franchises

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what mechanisms his Department has in place to ensure that lack of financial viability of the franchisee for a public transport route does not prevent the provision of services on that route. [21592]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport lets franchises for operating rail services. Once central Government grant to Network Rail is taken into account, almost none of the individual rail franchises earn sufficient revenue to cover the total costs of service provision. The provision of rail services is therefore ensured through the Department's procurement and contract management processes, working alongside the commercial incentives of rail operators.

Value for money and affordability are key considerations in deciding the priority for providing taxpayer support for services. In circumstances where a franchisee is unable to continue operating, the Department is required to ensure the continuation of rail services under section 30 of the Railways Act 1993 (as amended).

Railways: Construction

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the environmental effects of proposed high speed rail links on the *(a)* environment and *(b)* properties in the vicinity of each route. [21685]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 4 November 2010]:* In assessing the environmental effects of the proposed high speed line, officials in HS2 Ltd have liaised with colleagues in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. They will continue to engage on environmental matters including the preparation of the full Appraisal of Sustainability that the Government will publish to inform the forthcoming public consultation.

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many applications his Department received for compensation under the Exceptional Hardship Scheme for High Speed 2 on the most recent date for which figures are available; and how many such applications were approved. [22075]

Mr Philip Hammond: As of 2 November 2010, the High Speed 2 Exceptional Hardship Scheme had received 79 applications. Decisions have been made on 31 of these applications so far. Of these 31 applications, 11 have been accepted.

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether local authorities that suffer a net loss in the monetary value of their housing assets attributable to the determined route for High Speed 2 will be compensated. [22076]

Mr Philip Hammond: In my statement to Parliament on 26 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 73-75WS, announcing the High Speed 2 Exceptional Hardship Scheme, I also set out my intention to introduce further arrangements to assist property owners, following consultation on the Government's high speed rail strategy and the route of any new line. I intend to introduce additional arrangements to help people whose property would not be covered by the statutory blight regime, but may nevertheless suffer a significant diminution in value as a result of proximity of the line.

At this stage it is too early to predict what the format or terms of such arrangements might be, both generally and with regard to local authorities. I have asked my officials to provide me with further advice on options for the terms and conditions of such additional provision and how it should operate. I will report to Parliament on my proposed way forward in the light of the spending review outcome and before public consultation.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to take a decision on the route for the High Speed 2 Rail Line. [22133]

Mr Philip Hammond: I intend to announce my preferred route for consultation later this year. The consultation period will begin early in 2011, and will last for a period significantly in excess of the minimum duration recommended in the Government's Consultation Code of Practice. Final decisions on the route of any new line will only be taken following this public consultation.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the number of properties likely to be affected by his proposals for the route of the High Speed 2 rail line. [22134]

Mr Philip Hammond: I am still considering the exact route that we will recommend for consultation. Estimates of the numbers of properties that may be affected will be included in the full Appraisal of Sustainability which will be published to inform the forthcoming consultation.

Railways: Heathrow Airport

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what the terms of reference were for the report by Arup on the Heathrow link; [19972]

(2) if he will publish the report by Arup on the Heathrow link in a form which includes maps; [19973]

(3) for what reasons his Department has redacted the report by Arup on the Heathrow link. [19974]

Mr Philip Hammond: Arup's report on a Heathrow link and its subsequent submission to the Mawhinney Review were commissioned and prepared independently by Arup. The Department for Transport had no involvement in setting any terms of reference which the company may have followed in carrying out its work.

The submission to the Mawhinney Review was made in strict confidence and subject to the Department for Transport's agreement that it would not be published or otherwise made public other than in its redacted form (the redactions having been made by Arup). This is because the material contains detailed information on Arup's proposals for a Heathrow Hub which the company has worked up independently, on which it has expended significant resources, and which in its opinion constitutes valuable intellectual property.

Railways: West Midlands

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the public spending required in *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2011, *(c)* 2012 and *(d)* 2013 to develop the proposed HS2 high speed rail link from London to Birmingham. [18011]

Mr Philip Hammond: In respect of the current financial year, I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 411W, given to the hon. Member for Brighton, Pavilion (Caroline Lucas).

For subsequent years, the Government have confirmed that over £750 million in funding has been identified for high speed rail over the spending review period. This figure includes annual resource funding as follows:

	£ million
2011-12	116
2012-13	163
2013-14	90
2014-15	205

In addition, with regard to capital expenditure, the Department for Transport estimates that up to £50 million a year will be required to fund the purchase of properties under the current exceptional hardship scheme and any subsequent statutory and discretionary arrangements put in place to assist property owners affected by its high speed rail proposals. However, it should be noted that actual capital expenditure will depend on the number and nature of applications received.

Railways: Wiltshire

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of dualling the railway line between Swindon and Kemble. [20969]

Mrs Villiers: The last estimate provided by Network Rail in December 2009 was £52.4 million. A more detailed estimate is expected at the end of this year. Unfortunately, the need to address the deficit means that we are not able to commit Government funding to this project in the current spending review period, but it remains our aspiration to take it forward in the future. This is the type of project that will be considered for funding in the next railway control period.

Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will assess the merits of introducing a minimum floor price for Renewable Obligation Transport Certificates. [21676]

Norman Baker: As part of the Government's measures to address climate change, the renewable transport fuel obligation (RTFO) ensures a growing proportion of UK road transport fuels are from sustainable renewable sources. The RTFO includes a certificate trading mechanism to increase the efficiency of compliance. The value of individual certificates is determined by the market. To date the RTFO has met its objective of driving a market for renewable transport fuels in the UK. Therefore the introduction of a minimum floor price is not currently considered necessary.

Roads: Accidents

Jesse Norman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effect on the number of accidents involving cars towing trailers of the change in the regulations on competence to drive classes of vehicles following implementation of the Driving Licences (Community Driving Licence) Regulations 1996. [21910]

Mike Penning: No assessment has been made on the effect of the Driving Licences (Community Driving Licence) Regulations 1996 on the number of accidents involving cars towing trailers.

The number of accidents involving cars towing trailers is collected and is shown in the following table.

Reported accidents involving a car towing, by item on tow: GB 1990 to 2009[1]

				Accidents
Accident year	*Single trailer*	*Double trailer*	*Caravan*	*Other*
1990	670	3	375	168
1991	740	3	378	196
1992	696	1	347	190
1993	688	1	365	201
1994	739	1	342	183
1995	681	0	302	174
1996	740	0	298	168
1997	744	1	378	140
1998	767	1	295	167
1999	721	9	287	193
2000	658	20	246	169
2001	655	35	240	155
2002	607	23	241	157
2003	622	28	237	124
2004	613	17	203	132
2005	585	42	205	129
2006	501	22	203	131
2007	496	39	173	122
2008	426	22	161	90
2009	388	21	161	93

[1] Includes single trailers, double/multiple trailers and caravans.

Rebecca Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the potential effect on the incidence of road traffic accidents of adopting daylight saving time. [22849]

Mike Penning: I refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 2 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 706W.

Shipping: Isles of Scilly

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which *(a)* UK and *(b)* French aircraft were involved in the rescue of crew from the Athena fish factory ship off the Isles of Scilly; what the role of each was; and if he will make a statement. [21386]

Mike Penning: None of the people from the MV Athena were rescued by aircraft. However, the following aircraft were tasked to respond to the incident:

A Falcon 50 from the French Navy that provided a communications link;

An RAF C-130 Hercules from RAF Lyneham, which was later stood down because of the endurance available from the French aircraft;

Royal Navy Sea King positioned on the Scilly Isles from RNAS Culdrose; and

RAF Sea King from RMB Chivenor, also positioned on the Scilly Isles.

Tolls: Roads

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress he has made on the implementation of the Lorry Road User Charge Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [19825]

Mike Penning: We are working towards the introduction of a new system of HGV road user charging to ensure a fairer arrangement for UK hauliers. New legislation will be needed for a national HGV road user charging scheme. The details have not yet been finalised, but the Department for Transport is working with the Treasury to design a charging scheme and measures to offset the charges for UK hauliers.

Travel: Subsidies

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when his Department last had discussions with the representatives of the rail and coach industry on levels of support for fares paid from the public purse. [22135]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport has regular meetings with train operators. These include discussions on the level of subsidy paid to or premiums paid by the train operator. Changes to fares regulation are also discussed when appropriate.

We have not had discussions with the coach industry on public support for fares since the new Government was formed.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Maidstone

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders have been *(a)* made against and *(b)* breached by residents of Maidstone and the Weald constituency in each of the last five years. [21478]

James Brokenshire: The latest available data on the number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued and breached cover the period 1 April 1999 to 31 December 2008. Figures for Maidstone and the Weald constituency are unavailable as data collected centrally by the Ministry of Justice on ASBOs are not available below CJS area level.

The number of ASBOs issued in the Kent criminal justice system (CJS) area and the number proved in court to have been breached in the Kent CJS area, in each year between 2004-08 are shown in the following table.

Number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued in all courts[1] and the number proved in court to have been breached[2] in the Kent criminal justice system (CJS) area, 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2008

CJS area	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Kent					
Issued	54	44	29	26	13
Breached	5	6	8	11	16

[1] Includes ASBOs issued on application by magistrates courts acting in their civil capacity and county courts, which became available on 1 April 1999 and ASBOs made following conviction for a relevant criminal offence at the Crown court and at magistrates courts (acting in their criminal capacity), which became available on 2 December 2002. Prior to the creation of the Ministry of Justice on 9 May 2007, numbers of ASBOs issued were reported to Home Office by the Court Service.

[2] Breach data from the magistrates court administrative systems in Kent are known to have been under-reported. ASBOs may be breached more than once and in more than one year. In this table, ASBOs are counted once only within the period when they were first breached. Many of these breaches will be as a result of an ASBO that was issued in an earlier year. ASBOs may be issued in one area and breached in another. For these reasons, breach rates cannot be computed from the figures presented in this table. Breaches are counted in this table by area of issue.

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services within the Ministry of Justice.

Border Agency: Finance

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effects on the security of UK borders of the spending settlement for the UK Border Agency announced in the 2010 spending review. [20826]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency priorities are to secure the border and reduce migration. The UK Border Agency is committed to maintaining an effective and secure border. The Coalition commitment to a functioning e-borders programme will mean that we can improve controls, gain better intelligence and work more productively at the border.

The new National Crime Agency including the Border Police Command will also enhance security and further develop more effective policing at the border.

The UK Border Agency is using intelligence so that we can target the resources we have—people and money—and focus them on individuals who pose the greatest threat to the UK.

The UK Border Agency is making full use of technology, increasing automated passport gates and using e-Borders to check passengers against watch lists, targeting systems, biometrics and providing more services online, including applications. All of these initiatives are subject to ongoing assessment by the UK Border Agency as they progress in order to ensure that its commitment to maintaining a secure border is achieved.

I am confident that the effect will be an improved and effective impact on the security of the UK borders.

Crime: Databases

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the number and proportion of unsolved crimes for which the investigation has been closed where there has been an unmatched DNA sample collected at the crime scene. [19776]

James Brokenshire: Information is not collected centrally from police forces on the number and proportion of unsolved crimes for which the investigation has been closed.

However, since April 2002 records have been captured on the national DNA database (NDNAD) match reporting management information database (MID) on matches between crime scene sample profiles and subject sample profiles.

As at 30 September 2010, there were 366,755 crime scene sample profiles on the NDNAD that had been submitted by police forces in England and Wales. As at 4 October 2010, an estimated 147,510 of these had not been matched to a subject sample profile. This represents 40% of the total number of crime scene profiles held on the NDNAD from police forces in England and Wales.

The figures provided are estimates as it is possible that some crime scene profiles were matched before 2002 and therefore not captured on the MID. The number of unmatched crime scene profiles may therefore be lower than indicated. It is also important to note that although a crime scene sample profile on the database has not matched to a subject sample profile, the crime may have been detected through other evidence.

The data provided are management information and have not been formally assessed for compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each of its Ministers in *(a)* September and *(b)* October 2010. [21784]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office did not incur any relevant expenditure during September or October 2010.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Dr Phillip Lee: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms are in place to ensure that her Department's decisions on regional funding allocations are based on the most recent available population data. [20695]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office does not contribute to any single regional pot of funding. Individual police force funding allocations, including specific grants, have not been decided yet. These will be announced provisionally in early December.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department has established processes to monitor any effects of proposed reductions in its expenditure. [21629]

Nick Herbert: The Department's Structural Reform Plan sets out clear priorities and measurable milestones. We are already monitoring our progress against these, with monthly progress reports publicly available on the No. 10 website. Now that we know our spending review settlement, we will publish a Departmental Business Plan which will encompass a revised Structural Reform Plan. This will provide the means by which the Department will monitor progress against objectives within its planned expenditure over the spending review period.

Departmental Redundancy

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much funding to meet staff redundancy costs was identified in her Department's settlement letter in respect of the comprehensive spending review; [21535]

(2) what estimate she has made of the number of redundancies arising from the spending reductions proposed in the comprehensive spending review in respect of *(a)* her Department, *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies and *(c)* other public bodies which are dependent on her Department for funding; [21536]

(3) what estimate she has made of the cost to her Department of staff redundancy in each of the next four years. [21537]

Nick Herbert: All pressures on Departments' budgets were taken into account as part of the Spending Review and settlements were allocated accordingly.

The Home Office has made a provisional estimate that suggests the Home Office and its agencies (UK Border Agency, Identity and Passport Service and Criminal Records Bureau) will reduce their work force by approximately 6,500 over the four years of the settlement.

Determining the exact number and cost of voluntary early departures and redundancies will be an ongoing process and will depend on many factors, such as the recruitment freeze, pay restraint and other cost saving measures.

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on overseas visits for senior officials in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [18408]

Nick Herbert: The travel and subsistence (including overseas travel) of the Permanent Secretary and Director Generals are published quarterly on the Home Office website at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk

The overseas travel of Ministers is published annually by the Cabinet Office at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/conduct-ethics/ministerial/ministers-travel.aspx

Electronic Surveillance: Internet

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has had on the practices of TalkTalk in monitoring internet browsing activity by its customers. [19719]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 26 October 2010]*: I have had no recent representations in respect of the practices of TalkTalk in monitoring internet browsing activity by its customers.

European Data Retention Directive

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had at EU level on proposals to repeal the European Data Retention Directive. [18261]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 19 October 2010]:* The European Commission is currently carrying out an evaluation of the European Data Retention Directive as it is required to do under Article 14 of that directive. The UK has responded to the request from the Commission for further information setting out the value of the directive in tackling serious crime.

European Investigation Order

Mr Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether her Department considered alternative measures in advance of the Government's decision to opt into the draft European directive on the European Investigation Order; [15883]

(2) if she will publish the advice she received in advance of the Government's decision to opt into the draft European directive on the European Investigation Order; and if she will make a statement. [15884]

Nick Herbert: In line with article 3 of the UK protocol to the treaty on the functioning of the European Union, the UK's opt-in applied to the European Investigation Order (EIO). As a result the three options open to the UK were: not to opt into the EIO; to opt into the EIO at the start of negotiations; or to apply to opt in once the EIO has been adopted. All these options were carefully considered by the Government and it was determined that it was in the UK's interests to opt in at the start of negotiations. The reasons for this were explained in my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary's oral statement to the House of Commons on 27 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 881-90:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100727/debtext/100727-0001.htm#10072741000006

Releasing the advice we received prior to making the decision on opting in to the EIO would, at this time, be prejudicial to the development of government policy on this matter.

Mr Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consideration she gave to the Government's policy on further transfer of sovereignty or powers to the EU when determining her policy on the European Investigation Order; and if she will make a statement. [19193]

Nick Herbert: I refer my hon. Friend to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary on 27 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 881-890. As the Home Secretary made clear in her statement, I am satisfied that the European Investigation Order (EIO) will not further transfer sovereignty or powers to the EU. The EIO seeks to improve the existing system for mutual legal assistance (MLA) between participating member states and the decision to opt into the EIO was made following careful consideration of this policy.

Extradition

Mr Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to the public purse was of the extradition case The Government of the Republic of Serbia v. Dr Ejup Ganic concluded by the judgment of 27 July 2010. [14291]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 9 September 2010]:* It is not possible to provide a complete or accurate breakdown of costs incurred in this or any other individual extradition case. A number of Departments and agencies are involved in extradition cases including the Home Office, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Serious Organised Crime Agency, the Crown Prosecution Service, the police and HM Courts Service; and the cost of each case (which differs) is dealt with as part of the overall and larger case load.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of people extradited from the UK in the last three years who have subsequently returned to the UK. [15559]

Nick Herbert: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has not made any estimate of this kind.

Human Trafficking: EU Law

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has for the Government's contribution to negotiations on the EU human trafficking directive; and if she will make a statement. [21745]

Damian Green *[holding answer 4 November 2010]:* The Government have been engaged in ongoing negotiations with EU member states and the European Commission on the EU directive on human trafficking.

The Government decided not to opt into the directive at the outset, but to review the position once the directive has been agreed. We still have the option of applying to opt in at a later stage. Ongoing negotiations enable us to influence the final text of the directive, to ensure it is in the UK's best interests.

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward proposals for the UK to opt into the EU directive on human trafficking; and if she will make a statement. [22374]

Damian Green: The Government decided not to opt into the directive at the outset, but to review the position once the directive has been agreed. We still have the option of applying to opt in at a later stage.

In reaching this decision, the Government considered whether the directive would make a practical difference to the way the UK fights trafficking and whether it contained operational co-operation measures from which the UK would benefit.

Human Trafficking: Northern Ireland

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to tackle human trafficking into Northern Ireland; and what mechanism she has put in place to ensure the effectiveness of police operations against such trafficking. [17803]

Damian Green *[holding answer 18 October 2010]:* The Government maintain a close working relationship with relevant authorities across the UK at policy and operational levels to ensure the UK is a hostile environment for traffickers.

We are currently developing a new strategy to combat human trafficking, as I announced in the House on 14 October 2010. This will enhance our ability to act early, and involve smarter multi-agency action at the border, a more co-ordinated policing effort at home and improved victim care arrangements.

This will be carried out in consultation with the devolved administrations to ensure a coherent UK-wide approach.

Identity and Passport Service Interview Offices

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if she will make an estimate of the *(a)* cost and *(b)* duration of travel by public transport from each of the Identity and Passport Service Interview Offices planned for closure to the nearest office proposed to remain open; [20344]

(2) if she will take steps to offer alternative employment to staff of the Identity and Passport Service Interview Office in York on the closure of that office. [20345]

Damian Green *[holding answer 1 November 2010]:* The Identity and Passport Service (IPS) is currently carrying out formal consultation with trade unions on the proposed restructuring of the Interview Office Network (ION). Any costs or travelling time associated with the restructure can only be assessed following completion and consideration of the outcome of the consultation process.

IPS is committed to ensuring that staff whose posts are declared surplus under restructuring plans are considered for any internal vacancy or redeployment opportunity across the civil service before considering compulsory redundancy. Support is in place to enable our staff to enhance existing skills and to enable them to apply for suitable vacancies outside the civil service.

Identity and Passport Service: Newport (Gwent)

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of staff of the Identity and Passport Service working in the Newport passport office who could be redeployed from the Newport passport office to other civil service jobs in Newport. [21872]

Damian Green *[holding answer 4 November 2010]:* The proposed closure of the passport application processing centre at Newport would affect around 250 staff. The Identity and Passport Office is proposing to retain a customer service centre in Newport to service south Wales and the south-west. This will redeploy up to 45 people to provide a counter service and the ability to deal with applicants in the Welsh language. There is no forecast yet available regarding the volume or type of vacancies that might arise in the wider civil service between now and the proposed closure date. However, Identity and Passport Service is committed to providing individuals with outplacement support in order to help facilitate their move to alternative employment. This will include providing support in identifying alternative job opportunities both in the wider public sector but also in the private sector; providing practical training and development support; and making dedicated office space available to outplacement support where members of staff can go to seek help and advice and take time to carry out their job search.

Independent Police Complaints Commission

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many *(a)* complaints and *(b)* appeals were upheld by the Independent Police Complaints Commission in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11; [20460]

(2) how many *(a)* complaints and *(b)* appeals the Independent Police Complaints Commission processed in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [20461]

Nick Herbert: This information is not held by the Home Office.

The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) has statutory responsibility for the police complaints system and is responsible for the collation and publication of related statistics. However, I am advised that statistics for the periods in question are not yet available. Statistics for the period 2009-10 are expected to be published in December 2010.

Police Authorities of Wales

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has considered the merits of merging South Wales and Gwent police authorities; and if she will make a statement. [20848]

Nick Herbert: I have received no approach to consider the merger of South Wales and Gwent police areas. The Government have rejected the compulsory merger of local forces. We will consider requests for mergers only where they are voluntary, supported by a robust business case, and have community consent.

Police Authorities: Security

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the merits of the use of private security firms by police forces. [20369]

Nick Herbert: The Government have not carried out any assessment of the merits of the use of private security firms by the police.

Police Stations: Rugby

Mark Pawsey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if she will estimate the average number of people who visited the enquiry office of Rugby police station in each hour of the day in which that office was open to the public in the latest year in which figures are available; [22223]

(2) if she will estimate the average number of people who visited the enquiry office of Rugby police station on each day of the week in the latest year for which figures are available. [22224]

Nick Herbert: The Department does not collect information on the opening hours or the number of people attending police station inquiry offices. The opening hours of police station inquiry offices are a matter for chief constables to determine in line with local priorities.

Police: Accountability

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she plans to take to safeguard the operational independence of chief constables under her proposals for elected police commissioners. [14053]

Nick Herbert: We continue to engage with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and other professional partners in deciding the best division of responsibilities between commissioners and chief constables, to ensure that operational independence is protected. As set out in the "Policing in the 21st Century" document, commissioners will be subject to checks and balances.

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has made an assessment of the responses to her Department's 2004 consultation in respect of directly-elected police commissioners. [15412]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 14 September 2010]:* Formal consultation on Police and Crime Commissioners was set out in the "Policing in the 21st Century" consultation document published on 26 July 2010. Formal consultation ended on 20 September and responses have been submitted by a range of policing partners. These are being considered before the publication of the Government response in the autumn.

Guy Opperman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms she plans to put in place to ensure the operational independence of the police following the introduction of elected police commissioners. [19741]

Nick Herbert: As outlined in the "Policing in the 21st Century" consultation document, the Government are determined to maintain the operational independence of the police which is a fundamental principle of British policing.

The Government's consultation on these proposals closed on 20 September 2010 and a detailed response will be published shortly.

Police: Disability

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many disabled people were employed by the police *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in each constabulary in the latest period for which figures are available. [20013]

Nick Herbert: The available information is shown in the following table:

People with a disability employed by the police forces of England and Wales, 31 March 2010

Number

	Police officers	*Police community support officers*	*Police staff*
Avon and Somerset	5	0	5
Bedfordshire	43	2	0
Cambridgeshire	133	7	46
Cheshire	28	1	115
Cleveland	1	0	35
Cumbria	50	0	12
Derbyshire	48	5	31
Devon and Cornwall	41	3	88
Dorset	18	5	31
Durham	23	2	45
Dyfed-Powys	47	5	32
Essex	50	2	50
Gloucestershire	51	1	50
Greater Manchester	303	38	34
Gwent	0	0	281
Hampshire	3	8	0
Hertfordshire	46	5	19
Humberside	46	5	57
Kent	54	8	83
Lancashire	6	0	57
Leicestershire	29	4	13
Lincolnshire	24	1	43
London, City of	0	1	36
Merseyside	32	2	22
Metropolitan Police	184	60	49
Norfolk	2	0	265
Northamptonshire	42	3	30
Northumbria	22	1	52
North Wales	13	0	13
North Yorkshire	42	3	25

People with a disability employed by the police forces of England and Wales, 31 March 2010

	Police officers	Police community support officers	Number Police staff
Nottinghamshire	40	9	46
South Wales	74	5	43
South Yorkshire	30	4	66
Staffordshire	24	3	37
Suffolk	34	6	35
Surrey	22	0	53
Sussex	42	0	56
Thames Valley	21	2	44
Warwickshire	30	2	26
West Mercia	12	1	35
West Midlands	71	8	9
West Yorkshire	18	3	156
Wiltshire	3	1	70
Total	1,807	214	2,295

Notes:

1. Figures are provisional and have not been verified by forces.

2. Disability is self-declared following the definition used by the Disability Discrimination Act 1995: "Someone with a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. In this context, long-term means having lasted 12 months or more, expected to last 12 months or more from the time it started, or expected to last for the rest of the individual's life."

Police: Ethnic Groups

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people from each ethnic minority group were employed by the police *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in each constabulary in the latest period for which figures are available. [20014]

Nick Herbert: The available data are provided in the following table which shows police officer strength by ethnicity and police force area as at 31 March 2010.

Police officer strength by ethnicity and police force area as at 31 March 2010—England and Wales

							Full-time equivalents[1]
Police force	White	Mixed	Black or Black British	Asian or Asian British	Other ethnic group	Not stated	Total all staff
Avon and Somerset	3,242	19	18	9	11	3	3,302
Bedfordshire	1,150	20	16	39	0	22	1,246
Cambridgeshire	1,421	14	7	13	3	14	1,471
Cheshire	2,119	14	2	5	2	14	2,155
Cleveland	1,656	6	1	19	1	42	1,724
Cumbria	1,222	6	2	5	1	2	1,238
Derbyshire	2,003	15	6	48	3	0	2,074
Devon and Cornwall	3,179	17	8	1	6	345	3,556
Dorset	1,464	9	3	4	1	5	1,486
Durham	1,481	14	1	10	1	0	1,507
Essex	3,512	56	11	16	5	6	3,606
Gloucestershire	1,268	11	5	4	5	16	1,309
Greater Manchester	7,775	132	55	149	37	0	8,148
Hampshire	3,424	31	7	24	16	246	3,748
Hertfordshire	2,044	28	16	32	5	5	2,130
Humberside	2,040	7	6	5	0	0	2,058
Kent	3,659	46	13	38	16	16	3,787
Lancashire	3,217	49	2	67	3	312	3,649
Leicestershire	2,133	35	24	94	1	30	2,317
Lincolnshire	1,189	6	5	6	1	0	1,206
London, City of	805	14	14	17	1	2	852
Merseyside	4,370	85	21	14	26	0	4,516
Metropolitan Police	30,162	628	873	1,132	488	84	33,367
Norfolk	1,633	17	1	3	1	8	1,662
Northamptonshire	1,200	15	21	13	4	89	1,343
Northumbria	4,112	33	5	17	9	11	4,187
North Yorkshire	1,469	11	0	6	0	0	1,486
Nottinghamshire	2,313	26	23	38	2	8	2,409
South Yorkshire	2,848	23	22	43	3	14	2,953
Staffordshire	2,116	19	11	15	0	1	2,161

Police officer strength by ethnicity and police force area as at 31 March 2010—England and Wales

Full-time equivalents[1]

Police force	*White*	*Mixed*	*Black or Black British*	*Asian or Asian British*	*Other ethnic group*	*Not stated*	*Total all staff*
Suffolk	1,206	20	4	3	1	12	1,246
Surrey	1,797	25	8	23	9	29	1,890
Sussex	3,121	26	8	7	15	37	3,213
Thames Valley	4,146	79	32	71	16	91	4,434
Warwickshire	918	7	2	31	3	12	973
West Mercia	2,350	12	8	14	7	0	2,391
West Midlands	7,903	153	128	395	12	35	8,626
West Yorkshire	5,478	53	43	152	19	14	5,758
Wiltshire	1,163	6	5	4	1	2	1,181
Dyfed-Powys	1,187	3	1	3	1	0	1,195
Gwent	1,415	11	4	6	1	0	1,437
North Wales	1,577	6	1	2	3	1	1,590
South Wales	2,809	40	6	14	6	273	3,148
Total of 43 forces	135,293	1,844	1,446	2,607	745	1,799	143,734

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

Police: Females

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many women were employed by the police *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in each constabulary in the latest period for which figures are available. [20015]

Nick Herbert: Available data relate to full-time equivalent female officer strength by police force area in England and Wales at 31 March 2010 and are given in the following table.

Female officer strength in England and Wales by police force area on 31 March 2010

Full-time equivalent[1]

Police force	*Police officers*	*Police staff*[2]	*Police community support officers*	*Designated officers*	*Traffic wardens*
Avon and Somerset	816	1,122	223	0	0
Bedfordshire	363	557	64	32	0
Cambridgeshire	381	642	107	16	0
Cheshire	552	884	94	31	0
Cleveland	368	484	72	0	0
Cumbria	403	493	60	10	0
Derbyshire	521	847	88	57	0
Devon and Cornwall	892	1,039	159	100	1
Dorset	350	627	68	18	0
Durham	394	546	77	19	0
Essex	997	1,259	244	38	2
Gloucestershire	361	423	74	18	0
Greater Manchester	2,113	2,402	324	114	2
Hampshire	1,065	1,455	169	33	1
Hertfordshire	654	958	139	107	0
Humberside	538	840	165	111	1
Kent	995	1,458	192	161	0
Lancashire	991	1,305	195	0	0
Leicestershire	577	752	88	51	0
Lincolnshire	299	508	74	16	2
London, City of	175	170	18	0	0
Merseyside	1,109	1,345	205	66	0
Metropolitan police	7,774	8,299	1,613	137	144
Norfolk	420	625	135	23	5
Northamptonshire	359	771	67	5	0
Northumbria	1,081	1,208	202	24	0
North Yorkshire	381	676	80	0	1
Nottinghamshire	577	985	122	37	0
South Yorkshire	777	1,482	141	24	0
Staffordshire	552	840	120	56	0
Suffolk	318	533	87	14	0

Female officer strength in England and Wales by police force area on 31 March 2010

Full-time equivalent[1]

Police force	*Police officers*	*Police staff*[2]	*Police community support officers*	*Designated officers*	*Traffic wardens*
Surrey	576	1,113	105	107	0
Sussex	925	1,214	220	8	9
Thames Valley	1,213	1,778	267	47	2
Warwickshire	254	433	76	0	1
West Mercia	656	1,080	132	0	0
West Midlands	2,446	2,277	398	0	0
West Yorkshire	1,552	2,068	331	0	2
Wiltshire	334	531	62	84	0
Dyfed-Powys	310	392	35	12	5
Gwent	379	486	73	0	9
North Wales	416	573	81	9	0
South Wales	775	1,077	156	39	19
Total	36,988	48,556	7,399	1,621	206

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

[2] Police staff excludes PCSOs, TWs and DOs.

Police: Finance

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who will meet the costs of any referendum in cases where the police precept exceeds the prescribed limit. [15989]

Nick Herbert: Police authorities whose police precept increases cause a referendum to be held will be responsible for meeting the costs of that referendum.

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the likely effects on future levels of police authority precepts of the police funding settlement in the 2010 spending review. [20713]

Nick Herbert: The independent Office for Budget Responsibility assumes that after freezing the precept in England in 2011-12, police authorities would on average choose to increase precept in line with historical trend growth.

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the likely effect on the number of *(a)* police officers and *(b)* community police support officers in Yorkshire and the Humber of the police funding settlement in the 2010 comprehensive spending review. [20807]

Nick Herbert: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary will place the Government's proposed allocations for individual forces before Parliament in early December.

We have been clear that the police service must play its part in reducing the deficit. Decisions about the number of police officers, police community support officers and other police staff engaged by the four forces in the Yorkshire and Humber region and how they are deployed are matters for each of the chief constables and their police authorities.

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether the funding formula for police authorities takes account of the number of miles of motorway in each police force area; and if she will make a statement; [21325]

(2) whether the funding formula for police authorities takes account of the number of tourists visiting each police force area; and if she will make a statement; [21326]

(3) whether the funding formula for police authorities takes account of the *(a)* number and *(b)* concentration of licensed premises in each police force area. [21327]

Nick Herbert: The police allocation formula in its current form does not take account of the miles of motorway within each police force area, or the number of tourists visiting that area. It does, however, take account of the number and concentration of licensed premises in a police force area.

The Government have been consulting on changes to the police allocation formula and will set out their conclusions when provisional policing settlements for individual forces are placed before the House of Commons in early December.

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make an estimate of the likely cost to police forces as a result of the spending reductions proposed in the comprehensive spending review. [21573]

Nick Herbert: Core Government funding to the police will be reduced by 20% in real terms over the four years to 2014-15. This is a fair and manageable settlement over the spending review period.

Detail on what the spending review settlement will mean for each force will follow in early December when provisional policing settlements will be placed before the House of Commons.

Police: Helicopters

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* make, *(b)* model and *(c)* date of acquisition was of each helicopter acquired by police forces in England and Wales since 2000. [21729]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 4 November 2010]*: There are currently 31 helicopters in service across police forces in England and Wales. 26 of these aircraft have been purchased directly by police forces since 2000, three have been leased and the remaining two were purchased in 1999.

The make, model and date of acquisition by police force since 2000 is shown in the following table.

In addition to the aircraft in the table, there are also three leased helicopters. These are:

Norfolk—a single Eurocopter AS355;

South Wales and Gwent—a single Eurocopter 135;

and Wiltshire—a single MDI 902.

Police helicopters by make/model and date of acquisition:

Police force	*Helicopter make*	*Helicopter model*	*Date of acquisition*
Avon and Somerset	Eurocopter	135	2002
Gloucestershire	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Cambridgeshire	MDI	902	2006
Essex	Eurocopter	135	2003
Suffolk	Eurocopter	135	2010
Cheshire	Eurocopter	135	2010
Derbyshire	Eurocopter	135	2004
Nottinghamshire	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Devon and Cornwall	Eurocopter	145	2010
Dyfed Powys	Augusta Westland	109	2004
Greater Manchester	MDI	902	2008
Humberside	MDI	902	2001
Lancashire	Eurocopter	135	2002
Leicestershire	Eurocopter	135	2007
Northamptonshire	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Warwickshire	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Merseyside	Eurocopter	13b	2002
Metropolitan Police	Eurocopter	145 (x3)	2006
City of London	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Northumbria	Eurocopter	135	2004
Durham	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Cleveland	Eurocopter	135	2010
North Wales	Eurocopter	135	2010
South Yorkshire	MDI	902	2003
Surrey	Eurocopter	135	2003
Thames Valley	Eurocopter	135	2010
Bedfordshire	[1]—	135	2002
Hertfordshire	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
West Mercia	Eurocopter	135 (x2)	2010
Staffordshire	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
West Midlands	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
West Yorkshire	MDI	902	2000

[1] Indicates brace (please see notes)

Notes:

1. Avon and Somerset and Gloucestershire share a single Eurocopter 135 helicopter which is managed through the Western Counties Air Support Unit.
2. Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire share a single Eurocopter 135 helicopter which is managed through the North Midlands Air Support Unit.
3. Cleveland have this year purchased a MDI 902 helicopter which is scheduled for delivery in January 2011.
4. Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Warwickshire share a single Eurocopter 135 helicopter which is managed through the East Midlands Air Support Unit.
5. Metropolitan Police and City of London share three Eurocopter 145 helicopters.
6. Northumbria and Durham share a single Eurocopter 135 helicopter which is managed through the North East Air Support Unit.
7. Thames Valley, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire share two Eurocopter 135 aircraft which are managed through the Chiltern Air Support Unit.
8. West Mercia, Staffordshire and West Midlands share two Eurocopter 135 helicopters which are managed through the Central Counties Air Support Unit.
9. Dorset have a single Eurocopter 145 helicopter which was purchased in 1999, so they do no appear on the above list.
10. Sussex purchased a single MDI 902 helicopter in 1999, so they do not appear on the above list.

Police: Management

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff Essex police employed at management grades in each of the last three years; and what the average salary was of such staff in each such year. [20248]

Nick Herbert: Available data are provided in the following table which shows police officer strength in Essex police by rank as at 31 March 2008, 2009 and 2010.

Information on police staff is only collected centrally in total figures and is not broken down by grades. Therefore it is not possible to distinguish those who are in management grades and those who are not.

Figures on the average salary of Essex police staff are not collected centrally.

Police officer strength as at 31 March 2008, 2009 and 2010 by Essex police and rank[1]

	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
ACPO rank	5	5	5
Chief superintendent	14	12	10

Police officer strength as at 31 March 2008, 2009 and 2010 by Essex police and rank[1]

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Superintendent	20	22	23
Chief inspector	46	39	44
Inspector	137	145	147
Sergeant	499	504	527
Constable	2,663	2,757	2,850
Total	3,385	3,484	3,606

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

Police: Pensions

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers have been retired under regulation A19A in *(a)* each of the last 20 years and *(b)* 2010 to date. [20274]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 28 October 2010]:* The requested information is not collected centrally.

Police: Redundancy

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if she will make an estimate of the number of redundancies likely to be made by police forces as a result of the spending reductions proposed in the comprehensive spending review; [21572]

(2) if she will make an estimate of the number of police officers likely to be made redundant as a result of the spending reductions proposed in the comprehensive spending review; [21574]

(3) if she will make an estimate of the number of police community service officers likely to be made redundant as a result of the spending reductions proposed in the comprehensive spending review; [21575]

(4) if she will make an estimate of the number of police civilian support officers likely to be made redundant as a result of the spending reductions proposed in the comprehensive spending review. [21576]

Nick Herbert: Detail on what the spending review settlement will mean for each force will follow in early December when provisional policing settlements will be placed before the House of Commons.

The effectiveness of a police force does not depend primarily on the absolute number of staff but the way the workforce is used. Decisions about the number of police officers, police community support officers and other police staff engaged by forces and how they are deployed are matters for individual chief constables and their police authorities.

Police: Wales

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* police community support officers she expects to be employed in North Wales in each of the next four years. [20024]

Nick Herbert: Information on numbers of police officers and police community support officers expected to be employed in the future is not available centrally. It is important that each police force has the right mix of police officers and police support staff so as to deliver the best service possible to the public. It is not for the Government to determine how many officers and police community support officers are engaged by the North Wales police. This is a local decision for chief constable and the police authority.

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding her Department allocated to the police service in North Wales in 2009-10; and how much funding she plans to allocate in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12. [22257]

Nick Herbert: The information requested for years 2009-10 and 2010-11 is set out in the following table.

Detail on 2011-12 funding allocations for individual forces, including North Wales, will be announced in early December when the provisional police settlements will be placed before the House of Commons.

North Wales Government grants

	£ million
2009-10[1]	92.2
2010-11[2, 3]	93.1

[1, 2] Government grants comprises: Home Office Police Grant; Welsh Assembly Government Revenue Support Grant and National Non-Domestic Rates; Welsh Top-up; Crime Fighting Fund; Basic Command Unit Fund; Neighbourhood Policing Fund; Rule 2 Grant; Capital Grant. Excludes Counter Terrorism Funding.

[3] Takes account of in-year reductions in July 2010.

Radicalism

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on the *(a)* presence in the UK of and *(b)* use of the internet and satellite television broadcasts by extremist groups targeting the Ahmadiyya Muslim community in (i) the UK and (ii) Pakistan; and what steps she is taking to ensure such groups comply with UK law. [12946]

Nick Herbert: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department has not received any recent representations on the presence in the UK, and use of internet and satellite television broadcasts by extremists groups targeting the Ahmadiyya community in either the UK or Pakistan.

Within the UK, Ofcom regulates internet and satellite broadcasts under the Communications Act 2003. If there is any evidence of incitement in the activities of a broadcaster then a complaint should be lodged with Ofcom directly.

Raoul Moat

Guy Opperman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects her Department's reviews of the circumstances surrounding the death of Raoul Moat to be completed. [19834]

Nick Herbert The Home Office is not conducting a review of the circumstances surrounding the death of Raoul Moat. The circumstances surrounding the death are the subject of an independent investigation by the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC). The handling of the investigation is a matter for the IPCC.

Sex: Advertising

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward proposals to ban sex for sale advertising. [21253]

Lynne Featherstone: We do not believe it is appropriate to advertise sexual services in local newspapers and welcome the guidance published on this by the Newspaper Society in recent years. An outright ban on advertising sexual services would require legislation which we do not believe would be effectively enforceable. We will look at this issue more closely and consider what more can be done to prevent advertising of sexual services in the media.

Squatting

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what guidance her Department issues to the police on the treatment of squatters; what recent discussions she has had with the police on treatment of squatters; and if she will make a statement; [21982]

(2) what recent representations she has received on the adequacy of police powers to remove squatters from residential property; what response she provided in each case; and if she will make a statement. [21983]

Nick Herbert: I have not received any specific representations on the adequacy of police powers to remove squatters from residential property, but I understand that my right hon. and learned Friend, the Lord Chancellor has received a number of representations on the subject. The Home Office has not issued any specific guidance to the police on the treatment of squatters.

The Ministry of Justice is currently looking at the law on trespass, and the way it is enforced, in association with the Association of Chief Police Officers, other Government Departments, including the Home Office and the Crown Prosecution Service, to see if any strengthening or guidance is needed.

Stop and Search

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has for the future *(a)* content and *(b)* use of stop and account forms; and if she will make a statement. [20814]

Nick Herbert: The Government are committed to reducing unnecessary bureaucracy to allow the police to focus on police work rather than paperwork. Stop and account records provide little meaningful intelligence and disproportionality levels are significantly lower than stop and search. That is why we previously announced our intention to cease the national requirement for completion of the stop and account form by the end of this year.

However, we recognise that there may be some local police forces that will wish to continue to monitor the ethnicity of people stopped, where there are concerns about the use of stop and account. In such circumstances, they will remain able to use the stop and account form.

Terrorism

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons convicted of a terrorist offence in each of the last three years had one or more previous convictions *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* in overseas jurisdictions. [15562]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office does not collate statistics in this way. The Home Office does however publish statistics on arrests and outcomes under the Terrorism Act 2000 (Operation of Police Powers under the Terrorism Act 2000 and Subsequent Legislation: Arrests, Outcomes and Stops and Searches). The link to the last edition of the annual publication is provided as follows:

http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb1010.pdf

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to answer question 15709, on payments by Essex police authority, tabled by the hon. Member for Southend West on 13 September 2010; and if she will make a statement. [20256]

Nick Herbert: I replied to my hon. Friend on 25 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 74-75W. I am sorry for the delay in replying to my hon. Friend.

HEALTH

Alzheimer's Disease

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people resident in England were *(a)* diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and *(b)* prescribed medication intended to slow the progress of the disease in each of the last three years. [22300]

Paul Burstow: The national Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) records the number of patients registered with practices in England who had a diagnosis of dementia. It is likely that out of this Alzheimer's disease accounts for approximately 50 to 70% of cases of dementia.

The numbers of such patients for the last three financial years is in the following table:

Patients on QOF dementia register

	Number
2007-08	220,246
2008-09	232,430
2009-10	249,463

We believe however that these figures underestimate the actual number of people in England who have dementia. The Department does not hold figures on the number of people resident in England diagnosed with

Alzheimer's disease. However, it is estimated that approximately 610,000 people in England have the condition. Because of this level of under-diagnosis, one of the Government's priority objectives in implementing the National Dementia Strategy is increasing the early diagnosis of dementia.

The Department does not hold data on how many people resident in England were prescribed medication intended to slow the progress of Alzheimer's disease. The British National Formulary lists the drugs donepezil, galantamine, memantine and rivastigmine as treatments for dementia. In addition, there is an unlicensed drug, idebenone, which is also used for dementia. The number of prescriptions for these drugs dispensed in England to 2009 is in the following table.

	Items
	Number (thousand)
2007	905.7
2008	1,060.1
2009	1,252.7

Ambulance Services: South East

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the savings to the public purse in each of the next 10 years attributable to the transition of the South East Coast Ambulance Service to the Make Ready scheme. [21491]

Mr Simon Burns: It is the responsibility of the South East Coast Ambulance Service to estimate the savings in each of the next 10 years attributable to the Make Ready Scheme. As this is a matter for the local national health service, the Department has not made such an estimate.

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has made a recent assessment of progress in the South East Coast Ambulance Service's implementation of the Make Ready scheme; and if he will make a statement. [21594]

Mr Simon Burns: This is a matter for the local national health service. However, the South East Coast Strategic Health Authority has advised that the South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Trust is rolling out its Make Ready initiative across the South East Coast region. There are currently three Make Ready depots in operation in Hastings, Chertsey and Thanet, and the trust plans to introduce nine more over the coming years.

Atos Healthcare

James Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of his Department's contracts with Atos Healthcare in the last five years. [20829]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department engaged Atos Healthcare as its provider of occupational health services from October 2006 to June 2010.

Figures are only available from 1 July 2008, when the Department's new business management system was implemented. Obtaining spend information prior to this date could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

From 1 July 2008 the total cost to the public purse of contracts with Atos Healthcare was £81,525.

Balloon Dilation Surgery

Anna Soubry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* safety and *(b)* viability of providing balloon dilation surgery to people diagnosed with chronic cerebrospinal venous insufficiency. [21928]

Paul Burstow: We understand that the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is monitoring the availability of evidence relating to balloon angioplasty with or without stenting for chronic cerebrospinal venous insufficiency in multiple sclerosis as part of its interventional procedures programme and further information is available at:

http://guidance.nice.org.uk/IP/891

The Department has undertaken no such assessments.

Benzodiazepines

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what clinical trial evidence his Department holds on the safety for patient use of lorazepam. [21751]

Mr Simon Burns: At the time of licensing Ativan (original brand name for lorazepam), the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency's predecessor, the Medicines Division of the Department of Health and Social Security, considered that the data provided were sufficient, in terms of the evidence of quality, safety and efficacy, to allow the grant of a marketing authorisation. The Committee on the Review of Medicines also considered the risk:benefit balance of Ativan to be positive in relation to quality, safety and efficacy.

The licences for all oral Ativan products were cancelled in 2008 at the request of the marketing authorisation holder for commercial reasons and the Department no longer holds the original clinical trial data which supported these applications.

A number of generic lorazepam products have been approved in the United Kingdom following a thorough assessment of the data submitted by the applicant companies. However, under the terms of the Directive 2001/83/EC (article 10.1 'generic application' or article 10c 'informed consent') the product information for the new generic must reflect the safety information contained within the brand leader's product information and these applications do not need to be supported by new clinical trials investigating safety.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency continuously monitors the safety of medicines using a variety of sources including information from clinical studies, published literature, spontaneous case reports, data from marketing authorisation holders as well as other regulatory authorities. This information is used to ensure that up to date information is provided in the product information, which consists of the Summary of Product Characteristics (SPC) and Patient Information Leaflet, to aid the safe use of the medicine for the approved indication.

Breast Cancer: Health Services

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether GPs will be responsible for commissioning breast cancer services under his proposed reforms to the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [21987]

Mr Simon Burns: Consortiums of general practitioner (GP) practices working with other health and care professionals will commission the great majority of national health service services for their patients, including breast cancer services. They will not be directly responsible for commissioning services that GPs themselves provide, nor will they will be responsible for commissioning the other family health services. These will be the responsibility of the NHS Commissioning Board, as will national and regional specialised commissioning. The Board will also be hosting some clinical commissioning networks, for example for rarer cancers and transplant services, to pool specialist expertise.

GPs play a crucial role in co-ordinating patient care and committing NHS resources through daily clinical decisions. This new model of commissioning draws on the regular contact that GPs have with patients and their more detailed understanding of patients' wider health care needs.

To support GP consortiums in their commissioning decisions, we will create an independent NHS Commissioning Board. The Board will provide leadership for quality improvement through commissioning. This will include setting commissioning guidelines on the basis of clinically approved quality standards developed with advice from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, in a way that promotes joint working across health, public health and social care.

Breast Cancer: Screening

Mr Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps he has taken to increase the uptake of breast cancer screening appointments; and if he will make a statement. [21985]

Paul Burstow: The National Health Service Breast Screening Programme (NHS BSP) is renowned as being one of the best screening programmes in the world, with over three quarters of women invited choosing to participate. However, it is important that we are careful to promote breast screening in a responsible way, so that women can make an informed choice on whether to be screened or not. Like other methods of screening, mammography is not perfect.

Despite this, we do know that women from certain groups are less likely to take up their invitation for breast screening. Primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible for commissioning the NHS BSP locally and for organising local screening awareness initiatives as appropriate. In March 2010 the Department published "Reducing cancer inequality: evidence, progress and making it happen: a report by the National Cancer Equality Initiative". A copy has already been placed in the Library. The report recommended that PCTs review local levels of screening coverage and uptake to consider whether further action is required to improve coverage and uptake.

Channing Wheeler

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health between what dates Mr R Channing Wheeler was employed by his Department; what his job description was; and how much was paid to him in *(a)* salary, *(b)* bonuses, *(c)* London allowance, *(d)* expenses and *(e)* other allowances. [21750]

Mr Simon Burns: Mr Channing Wheeler was appointed director-general of the Commercial Directorate. The key objectives of the advertised role were:

to promote and enable the Department and the national health service to follow best commercial and procurement practices;

to secure best value and greater levels of effectiveness within the Department and the NHS;

to develop and strategically manage relationships with the private sector in order to enable it to contribute to NHS reform;

to provide commercial input to departmental strategic reviews and policy decisions;

to act as an enabler for the delivery of key reform areas; and

to contribute to the formation of the Department/NHS policy from a commercial perspective to help deliver efficiency throughout the Department and the NHS through the application of commercial expertise.

Mr Wheeler received a salary including bonus in the range £200,000 to £205,000 at the time of his departure in July 2008. Mr Wheeler was not in receipt of a London allowance. When Mr Wheeler was appointed, his contract included payment of a relocation allowance and reimbursement of rent and related expenses. In 2008-09, Mr Wheeler was reimbursed a total of £20,903.

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease: Health Services

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the NHS was of *(a)* treatment and *(b)* prevention of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in each of the last three years. [21901]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not calculate an annual estimate of treatment and prevention costs for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), but recent calculations have been made as part of the 2010 Consultation on a Strategy for Services for COPD in England. The results are summarised in the following table, taken from the Consultation Impact Assessment.

Category of treatment cost—all estimates per annum and in 2008-09 prices

£ million

	Central estimate	*Maximum*
Primary care	78	198
Pharmaceuticals	263	263
Secondary care	386	386
Community services: oxygen therapy	63	63

Category of treatment cost—all estimates per annum and in 2008-09 prices

	Central estimate	£ million Maximum
Total	790	910

Notes:
The £78 million estimate is derived from 772,000 patients with recorded COPD, an estimate of 2.76 GP consultations per person per year and a unit cost of £36.50 per GP consultation. The 2.76 based on the number of consultations with COPD recorded as the reason for the consultation.
The £198 million estimate is derived from 772,000 patients with recorded COPD, an estimate of 7.03 GP consultations per person per year and a unit cost of £36.50 per GP consultation. The 7.03 is based on all GP consultations that each patient has; some of these will have been unrelated to COPD.
Patients will have GP appointments where COPD is not recorded as the reason for the appointment, but where COPD was nonetheless a contributor to the appointment; kind of like a secondary diagnosis.
Ref: Consultation on a Strategy for Services for COPD in England (Department of Health, 2010).
Includes Impact Assessment.
http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_112977
Statistics on NHS Stop Smoking Services (NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care, 2010).
www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/health-and-lifestyles/nhs-stop-smoking-services

Several departmental/national health service activities contribute to COPD prevention and exacerbation prevention, including influenza vaccination, pneumococcal vaccination and Stop Smoking services. These activities also help prevent other diseases, so it is difficult to attribute a precise fraction of their cost to COPD. The Impact Assessment estimates an attributed cost of £20 million per annum for the vaccinations. Data from the NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care show total expenditure on Stop Smoking Services (excluding pharmaceuticals) of £60.8 million in 2007-08, £73.7 million in 2008-09 and £83.9 million in 2009-10.

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to improve the *(a)* treatment and *(b)* prevention of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. [21902]

Mr Simon Burns: The proposals to improve the prevention and treatment of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) are set out in the consultation on the Strategy for Services for People with COPD in England. The consultation document has already been placed in the Library and can be found on the Department's website at:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_112977

The Department is currently considering the responses to that consultation.

Contraceptives

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent assessment he has made of the effect of providing free contraceptives on the rates of sexually transmitted diseases; and if he will make a statement.; [21942]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the effect of providing free contraceptives to persons under 16 years of age on the rates of sexually transmitted diseases in each year since 1997; what the evidential basis for this assessment was; and if he will make a statement. [21943]

Anne Milton: There is no evidence to suggest that there is a direct link between the availability of free contraception and the rates of sexually transmitted infections (STIs). The risks of catching an STI are considerably reduced through using a condom when having sex with a new partner.

Contraception has been free for everyone since 1974. Contraception is available in the community from family planning clinics and general practitioners and we are keen to encourage its widespread use, including by young people where this is appropriate.

Health professionals are able to give contraceptive and sexual health advice and treatment to under 16-year-olds without parental knowledge or consent, in cases where the young person's physical or mental health, or both, would be likely to suffer and the young person understood the treatment and advice proposed and its implications.

Darent Valley Hospital: Finance

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 2 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 762W, on winter pressures: NHS, what resources he plans to allocate to Darent Valley hospital for patients in the winter of 2010-11 who would otherwise have been treated at the accident and emergency department of Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup. [22491]

Mr Simon Burns: There are no plans to allocate extra resources to Darent Valley hospital for this purpose, as, under the Payment by Results system, hospitals are paid by commissioners for all activity within the scope of the national tariff, adjusted by the Market Forces Factor to take account of unavoidable local cost differences. As tariff payments follow the patient, an increase in activity at Darent Valley hospital would result in it attracting tariff payments that it otherwise would not have received had those patients been treated elsewhere.

Dental Services: Finance

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether he plans to ring-fence the salaried primary dental care services budget; [21675]

(2) if he will assess the merits of ring-fencing the salaried primary dental care services budget. [22198]

Paul Burstow: We see no merit in restricting the freedom of the local NHS commissioning body, currently primary care trusts, to judge the appropriate level of resources required for dental services in each area, or to consider any appropriate type of supplier to provide any element of such services.

Dental Services: Regulation

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many responses his Department received to its consultation on extending to dental practitioners the regulatory powers of the Care Quality Commission. [22437]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department received 230 responses to the consultation that included the proposal to register providers of primary dental care issued in March 2008. Approximately half of the respondents commented on the registration of primary care providers. Of those, 98 commented on the registration of dentists. The proposal was supported by the overwhelming majority of those who commented, with only two responses against registration of primary dental care providers.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the response of the *(a)* British Dental Association and *(b)* General Dental Council to his Department's consultation on extending to dental practitioners the regulatory powers of the Care Quality Commission. [22438]

Mr Simon Burns: The consultation responses from the British Dental Association and the General Dental Council were published alongside the Government's response to the consultation in March 2009. Copies have already been placed in the Library and are available on the archived section of the Department's website at:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Responsestoconsultations/DH_107628

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which dental organisations he has met to discuss the proposed extension to dental practitioners of the regulatory powers of the Care Quality Commission. [22439]

Mr Simon Burns: My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Quality (Earl Howe) has discussed the registration of primary dental care providers with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in separate meetings with the British Dental Association and The General Dental Council. He has also discussed CQC with the private insurer Denplan and has discussed it in the course of visits to individual dental practices.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the appropriateness of the scope of the *(a)* proposed regulatory powers of the Care Quality Commission in respect of dental practitioners and *(b)* powers of other organisations that regulate dental practitioners. [22440]

Mr Simon Burns: In October 2009, the Department undertook and published an impact assessment of regulation of primary medical and dental care providers under the Health and Social Care Act (2008). The impact assessment considered the cost and benefits of registering primary care providers.

The current regulatory arrangements for primary care focus on the competence of the individual professional. The Care Quality Commission will actively monitor providers' compliance against registration requirements, focusing on the way that organisations are managed and the way their systems work. For example, organisations must meet requirements around cleanliness and infection control, medicines management, premises and equipment. These safety issues, as well as a number of other registration requirements are not covered in full by other bodies.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to inform dental practitioners of the registration requirements of the Care Quality Commission. [22441]

Mr Simon Burns: The Chief Dental Officer's Update in June 2009 first referred to the requirement for the Care Quality Commission (CQC) registration from April 2011. This is sent to all registered dental practitioners.

CQC, as the independent regulator for health and adult social care, is responsible for implementing the legislation and has been engaging with primary dental care providers to ensure that they are aware of the need to register and of the essential levels of safety and quality that must be met in order to be registered. This has included:

CQC making information available to primary dental care providers through a range of online media since January 2010—this includes a monthly e-bulletin, information on the CQC website and an online Provider Reference Group with approximately 170 members;

CQC running events—CQC has run five regional events on dental registration which had an overall attendance of 600, a corporate provider event, and pilot events on the application process with three primary care trust dental providers;

CQC staff presenting at a range of events for dental practitioners including key conferences for dental professionals, seven national Primary Care Commissioning 'Dental Networking' events and at local dental committees; and

CQC issuing an introductory registration letter and introductory booklet to 7,500 contacts. This was also sent to relevant trade associations for onward distribution to wholly private primary dental care providers.

Departmental Early Retirement

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have been offered enhanced early retirement packages in each of the last three years. [22026]

Mr Simon Burns: For the core Department the numbers of people who have been offered enhanced retirement packages in the last three years are presented in the following table:

	Number
2008-09	9
2009-10	2
2010-11	5

There have been no cases where staff at the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency have been offered enhanced early retirement packages within the last three years.

Until 31 December 2009, the Department had a second agency—the NHS Procurement and Supplies Agency (PASA). No information is available centrally about retirement packages offered to staff from PASA.

Departmental Public Expenditure

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what his Department's capital expenditure per head was in *(a)* London and *(b)* the North West in each of the last five years; [21456]

(2) how much and what proportion of his Department's capital expenditure was allocated to *(a)* London and *(b)* the North West in each of the last five financial years. [21466]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is shown in the following tables.

Table 1: Strategic health authority (SHA), primary care trust (PCT) and NHS trust capital allocation

					£000
	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
London	421,545	402,822	484,033	443,371	735,199
North West	339,087	421,111	329,189	225,154	437,816
England	2,404,604	2,409,270	2,365,297	2,110,858	3,213,475

Table 2: SHA, PCT and NHS trust capital allocation

					Percentage of total
	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
London	18	17	20	21	23
North West	14	17	14	11	14
England	100	100	100	100	100

Table 3: SHA, PCT and NHS trust capital allocation per head

					£
	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
London	59	53	64	58	95
North West	50	61	48	32	63
England	49	48	47	41	62

Notes:

1. The figures in each table represent the capital resource limit (CRL) from the audited summarisation schedules of national health service bodies, 2005-06 to 2009-10, presented in value terms (table 1), as a percentage of the total CRL (table 2), and on a per head of population basis (table 3).
2. 2005-06 to 2008-09 figures compiled under United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (UK GAAP). 2009-10 figures compiled under International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).
3. The Department does not collect data from NHS foundation trusts. Where an NHS trust obtains foundation trust status part way through any year, the data provided is only for the part of the year the organisation operated as an NHS trust.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has established processes to monitor any effects of proposed reductions in its expenditure. [21631]

Mr Simon Burns: National health service expenditure has not been cut. Despite the difficult economic conditions and the need for fiscal consolidation, the coalition Government have honoured their commitment to protect NHS spending in real terms in each of the next four years.

Within the overall health settlement, the Government have said that they will reduce spending on administration costs, in order to focus funding on the front-line. The effects of this reduction will be for the individual organisations across the health sector to manage.

Through the quality, innovation, productivity and prevention process, the NHS is developing plans to improve both the quality and efficiency of services and will be held to account for delivering better health outcomes through the NHS Outcomes Framework.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many members of the Senior Civil Service his Department has recruited in each of the last three years; at what cost to the public purse that recruitment was undertaken in each such year; and if he will make a statement. [17333]

Mr Simon Burns: From 1 April 2007 to October 2010, the Department recruited 23 senior civil servants from outside the civil service. Information about the cost to the public purse of these recruitments could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the average cost to his Department of referring an employee on sick leave to *(a)* Atos Healthcare and *(b)* other healthcare assessors in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [21117]

Mr Simon Burns: The average cost of a departmental management referral to Atos healthcare in 2009-10 was £40.26 (net).

There were 185 occupational health referrals in 2009-10, at a cost of £7,634.19 (net).

These figures include the cost of management referrals and of obtaining further medical evidence. The figures do not include the monthly fixed cost price to deliver the provision. The cost of pre-employment checks are also excluded.

The Department's contract with Atos Healthcare came to an end on 30 June 2010.

A new provider, Medigold, has provided occupational health services for the Department and its agency, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, since 1 July 2010. There is a fixed price agreement in place with Medigold for the service provision. As this is a relatively new contract, information is not yet available about average cost figures for the current financial year.

General Practitioners

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanism his Department plans to put in place to deal with financial failure or closure of GP commissioning consortia. [21991]

Mr Simon Burns: "Liberating the NHS: Commissioning for Patients", published on 22 July, sets out that consortia will be accountable to the NHS Commissioning Board for the outcomes they achieve, their stewardship of public resources, and their fulfilment of the duties placed upon them. A copy of the publication has already been placed in the Library.

If a consortium does not perform its functions adequately, or there is a risk that it will not be able to perform its functions, the NHS Commissioning Board will have powers to intervene.

We will work with the profession and the national health service to develop the criteria or triggers for intervention. It is envisaged that any intervention would typically be a staged process, so that, wherever possible, a consortium has the opportunity to take remedial action itself. Any process would need to be in accordance with a transparent statutory framework of rules.

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the debts of primary care trusts will be written off when their functions are transferred to GP commissioning consortia. [21992]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department is working with the strategic health authorities to address circumstances where primary care trusts (PCTs) owe money, with the expectation that any debt will be fully resolved by the end of 2012-13. The issue of PCT debt will be covered in further detail in the NHS Operating Framework for 2011-12.

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to establish an approved list of private sector companies from which GP commissioning consortia may purchase services. [21993]

Mr Simon Burns: General practitioner (GP) consortia will receive a management allowance and be free to decide what commissioning activities they undertake for themselves and for which activities they choose to buy in support from external organisations, including local authorities, private and voluntary sector bodies. Discussions are ongoing as to how the arrangements will work in practice. No decisions have been taken on whether national commercial arrangements should be established to support GP consortia.

Liberating the NHS: Commissioning for Patients invited views on a number of areas of the commissioning agenda, including how to support consortia in assessing commissioning support organisations. The engagement exercise closed on 11 October and the Department is now analysing all of the contributions received.

General Practitioners: Training

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the future of GP training; and whether GP practices will be able to recruit trainees direct from deaneries. [22753]

Anne Milton: There are no plans currently to change the national recruitment system for general practitioner trainees.

The Department has committed to publishing a consultation on proposals for education and training, based on the principles in the White Paper.

The system will be driven by health care provider decisions underpinned by strong clinical leadership. It will be set within the context of delivering appropriate investment in work force education and training, while ensuring better outcomes for patients and value for money.

The system will need to ensure appropriate checks, balances and accountability. The arrangements for commissioning and delivery will be transparent and more efficient.

Health Education: Greater London

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department plans to take to increase awareness of public health in deprived areas in London; and if he will make a statement. [21756]

Anne Milton: The forthcoming public health White Paper will set out a radical approach to public health that will include details of how we intend to improve the health of the poorest, fastest.

In London, the Regional Director of Public Health is already leading work addressing public health in deprived areas of London. This includes his support of the Mayor's regional health inequalities strategy and delivering the promised regeneration legacy for the five "Olympic" boroughs that were chosen as the location for the 2012 games due to their historic deprivation.

Health Services: Children

Oliver Colvile: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has made an estimate of the number of primary care trusts required for his proposals for integrated paediatric continence services referred to in the National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services; and what plans he has for such integrated services under which GP-led consortia. [21763]

Anne Milton: It is important that professionals and commissioners work together to meet the needs of children and young people who are incontinent. To support this, in September 2010 the Department published an exemplar under the National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity on Continence Issues for a child with learning difficulties. A copy of the document has been placed in the Library.

Prior to this, the NHS bulletin for August 2010, had reminded chief executives of primary care trusts of the need to consider local arrangements to ensure compliance with the existing best practice guidance 'Good Practice in Continence Services' and the National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services. A copy of the document has been placed in the Library.

We will expect general practitioner consortia to involve relevant health and social care professionals from all sectors in helping design care pathways or care packages that achieve more integrated delivery of care, higher quality, and more efficient use of national health service resources. We will be working with the NHS and professional bodies in the transition to the new arrangements to promote multi-professional involvement.

Health Services: Third Sector

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the potential role of third sector organisations in providing expert guidance to GP consortia and other new commissioning bodies; and if he will make a statement. [21596]

Mr Simon Burns: Under the proposals set out in the White Paper 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS', we envisage that commissioning consortia will receive a maximum management allowance to reflect the costs of commissioning. General practitioner consortia will be able to decide which commissioning activities they undertake for themselves and for which activities they choose to buy in expertise and support from external organisations, including from third sector bodies.

Charities and voluntary organisations have a vital contribution to make to health and care, not only as the providers of services but also as advocates, partners in the co-design of services and involvers and engagers of local communities. The voluntary sector could, for instance, be well placed to support commissioners in developing needs assessments and commissioning guidelines.

We are committed to promoting continuous improvement in the quality of services for patients and greater opportunities for involvement of independent and voluntary providers in offering more responsive and personalised services.

Hereditary Diseases

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what data are collected *(a)* centrally and *(b)* by local health authorities on genetic conditions causing increased morbidity and mortality in children born to first cousin parents; and if he will make a statement. [21244]

Anne Milton: The Department does not routinely collect this information centrally. The Department continues to support the work of the national health service in providing information to all couples at risk of genetic conditions to enable them to make informed choices.

As part of the complementary work to the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the Department has published the Implementation Plan for Reducing Health Inequalities in Infant Mortality: A Good Practice Guide. The document provides details on how genetic screening and counselling services play an important part in this area. Specifically, it highlights the work of two projects funded by the Department on how to provide appropriate genetic services and support to communities that practise cousin marriage.

Hospitals

Gordon Birtwistle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department issues guidance on the maximum distance a person should travel to reach the nearest hospital accident and emergency department. [22561]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has not issued guidance on the maximum distance a person should travel to reach the nearest hospital accident and emergency department.

It is a matter for the local national health service to ensure that there is appropriate provision of urgent and emergency services that are responsive to people's needs.

Gordon Birtwistle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department issues guidance on the maximum size of population a general hospital outside London should serve. [22563]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not issue guidance on the maximum size of population that a general hospital outside London should serve. National health service organisations will decide locally what constitutes the best configuration for the delivery of healthcare services and facilities for their patients.

Hospitals: Children

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with specialist children's hospitals on *(a)* the additional costs incurred in treating children and *(b)* average expenditure per treatment of (i) a child and (ii) an adult; and if he will make a statement. [22506]

Mr Simon Burns: There is an ongoing dialogue between these hospitals and the Department.

As part of work in developing tariffs, my officials work with representatives from the specialist children's hospitals on understanding the costs related to providing children's services.

Officials are currently working closely with the specialist children's hospitals on checking the draft 2011-12 tariff. As part of this work, officials are discussing with the hospitals the potential impact of proposed changes to top-up payments for specialist services. These proposals, which include a reduction in the top-up payable for specialised services for children from 78% to 25% of the standard tariff, arise from a review of top-up arrangements that was initiated under the previous Administration.

Gordon Birtwistle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidelines his Department issues to NHS trusts on the provision of and access to paediatric and children accident and emergency services in deprived areas. [22667]

Mr Simon Burns: No such guidance has been issued. However, in July 2010, the Secretary of State for Health laid down four tests for all proposals to reconfigure national health service services. Such proposals must show: a clear clinical evidence base underpinning any proposals, which focuses on improved outcomes for patients; clear support for proposals from general practitioners as the commissioners of local services; strengthened arrangements for public engagement; and support for patient choice.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many isolation beds are available in NHS wards for patients with highly infectious diseases. [21899]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not held centrally.

Mental Health

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the recommendations relevant to his Department's policy responsibilities contained in the Foresight report on Mental Capital and Wellbeing by the Government Office for Science; if he will ensure that his Department takes steps to promote wellbeing; if he will ensure that his Department's policy development process takes account of psychological research into subjective wellbeing; and if he will make a statement. [22203]

Paul Burstow: The Government Office for Science's Foresight report on Mental Capital and Wellbeing has informed the cross-government Mental Health Strategy that we intend to publish this winter. The strategy will have the twin aims of promoting and sustaining good mental health and well-being in the wider population; and improving the quality of existing services for people across the full range of mental health problems.

Mental Health: Young People

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to increase levels of awareness of mental health issues in young people. [21796]

Paul Burstow: We announced our intention to produce a new mental health strategy in September. The strategy will take a cross-Government and life-course approach focusing on outcomes that are meaningful to patients and their families. We intend a wholesale shift in emphasis that puts mental health outcomes alongside physical health indicators in assessments of the quality of the national health service.

The Department of Health works closely with the Department for Education to increase awareness of mental health issues among young people.

NHS 111

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the annual savings to accrue from replacing NHS Direct with NHS 111. [21710]

Mr Simon Burns: NHS Direct is not being directly replaced by NHS 111. The Department conducted a partial impact assessment (pre-pilot) to assess the costs and benefits of introducing the NHS 111 service, which was published in December 2009.

This assessment will be updated to reflect evidence from the pilot sites and our final evidence-based conclusions will be published as part of the external evaluation of the NHS 111 pilots.

A copy of the partial impact assessment has been placed in the Library.

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when his Department plans to determine staffing levels for NHS 111; and if he will make a statement. [21723]

Mr Simon Burns: The most appropriate staff mix for NHS 111 call handling must be evidence-based and reflect the needs of commissioners, which is why we are piloting the service. We will collect and publish evaluation data from the pilots, which will be made available to commissioners. There will not be a centrally mandated approach to staffing NHS 111, and commissioners will be free to determine what is best for their patients.

NHS Direct

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the future of NHS Direct. [21749]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department is piloting the new NHS 111 service in County Durham and Darlington, Nottingham City, Lincolnshire and Luton over the course of this year and NHS Direct is contributing to the delivery of these pilots. When NHS 111 is rolled out nationally, it will replace the NHS Direct 0845 4647 telephone number. Until then, NHS Direct will continue to provide its current service. While the telephone number will no longer exist in the long-term, NHS Direct is expected to play an ongoing role, alongside other providers, in delivering the NHS 111 service, in line with an any willing provider approach.

NHS: Finance

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimates he has made of the likely changes in the NHS budget consequent on *(a)* an increasingly elderly population and *(b)* rising drug prices in the next 10 years. [21827]

Mr Simon Burns: National health service funding for 2011-12 to 2014-15 is set out in the recent spending review settlement; funding is protected in real terms over the next four years.

Further, the Department is working with the NHS to prepare to deliver a quantum shift in NHS efficiency, delivering £15 billion to £20 billion over the next four years.

All of these savings will be reinvested in the NHS. Together with the guarantee to protect funding against inflation the increased efficiency will allow the NHS to continue to deliver high quality health care and keep pace with demographic pressures, medical advances and rising public expectations.

On the particular pressures identified in the question:

An increasingly elderly population: The Department anticipate a pressure of about 1% per year over the spending review period. This matches analysis of external commentators such as The King's Fund.

Branded drug prices are controlled by the Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme (PPRS)—a voluntary agreement between the Department and the Association of British Pharmaceutical Industries—which aims to achieve a balance between reasonable prices for the NHS and a fair return for the industry to enable it to research, develop and market new and improved medicines.

The 2009 agreement included a pricing package comprising price cuts of 3.9% in 2009, and a further 1.9% in 2010. The agreement also permits price increases of 0.1%, 0.2% and 0.2% in 2011, 2012 and 2013 respectively.

In 2014 we will introduce a system of value based pricing for medicines, where the price of a drug will be determined by its assessed value. The NHS faces great challenges and reforming the way we pay for new medicines is a key part of ensuring that patients get better access to drugs and the NHS and the taxpayer get better value for money.

Organs: Donors

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he plans to take to arrange for local co-ordination of organ donation under the proposals in the NHS White Paper; [21604]

(2) what progress has been made on implementation of the recommendations of the Organ Donation Taskforce's report on organs for transplants; how many likely organ donations after death there were in 2008; what estimate he has made of the number in 2013; and if he will make a statement. [21606]

Anne Milton: The implementation programme has been successful, with the vast majority of recommendations needing a central steer either being completed or nearing completion. Key progress includes:

Establishing a new Organ Donor Organisation within NHS Blood and Transplant.

Establishing a new United Kingdom-wide independent Donation Ethics Committee within the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges.

Ensuring that Acute Trusts have: a Clinical Lead for Organ Donation; A Donation Committee; a Specialist Nurse for Organ Donation.

Disseminating bench-marked data to trusts every six months, to enable them to monitor their potential and actual donation rates.

Removing financial disincentives, through reimbursing trusts for the management of potential donors.

Establishing organ retrieval teams to provide high quality, 24/7, organ retrieval service across the UK.

Publishing national guidance.

Running a national media campaign to promote organ donation.

Work to implement the recommendations in the Organ Donation Taskforce report has been ongoing since the report was first published in January 2008 and good progress has been made.

As part of the implementation programme, NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) have already been working to raise the profile of and improve the systems for organ donation within every hospital trust. In order to do this they have established a network of 220 Specialist Nurses for Organ Donation who are based at hospitals throughout the country. The role of these specialist nurses is to work with families, providing a constant link to support and guiding them throughout the donation process.

NHSBT have also worked with hospitals to ensure the appointment of 187 Clinical Leads for Organ Donation. Usually intensive care or emergency medicine consultants, the Clinical Leads are working with their colleagues to foster a culture where consideration of the potential for organ donation becomes a usual rather than unusual event.

In addition to this 160 Donation Committees have been set up within hospitals with the tools they need and an innovative Professional Development Programme to support organ donation.

There were 884 organ donations after death in 2008, when the implementation programme began. The implementation programme has led to the number of deceased organ donors and organ transplants reaching a record UK high last year, with the lives of more than 3,700 people being saved through the gift of life. This represents a 19% increase in deceased organ donation since the implementation programme began. This increase is significantly higher than the Programme Delivery Board anticipated at such an early stage of the implementation programme.

We are taking steps to ensure that the momentum gained over the last two years is sustained, to enable us to realise the taskforce's aspiration of a 50% increase in organ donation by 2013. This includes continuing to ensure that work is aligned with and utilises new levers, such as those included in the NHS White Paper.

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of people on *(a)* the transplant waiting list and *(b)* the NHS Organ Donor Register are from black and minority ethnic groups; what recent estimate he has made of the rate of deceased organ donation by people from black and minority ethnic groups; what steps he plans to take to increase that rate; and if he will make a statement. [21605]

Anne Milton: To raise the profile of organ donation and the benefits of transplantation, NHS Blood and Transplant work in partnerships with the national health service, commercial and third sector organisations to support local events around the country or national initiatives such as joining the Organ Donor Register when registering with a doctor, or applying for a driving license. As part of a recent media campaign there were activities targeted specifically at black and minority ethnic (BME) audiences including street plays, faith road shows and coverage in BME specific media outlets.

Information on the proportion of people from black and minority ethnic groups on the transplant waiting list; registered on the organ donor register and the ethnicity of deceased solid organ donors is given in the following tables.

Ethnicity of people on the current active transplant list, as at 1 November 2010

Ethnic origin	*Number*	*Percentage*
White	5,863	74.4
Asian	1,194	15.1
Black	613	7.8
Chinese	95	1.2
Mixed	20	0.3
Other	98	1.2
Not reported	1	<0.1
Unknown	2	<0.1
Total	7,886	100.0

Ethnicity of deceased solid organ donors in the UK, 1 April 2007-31 March 2010

		2007-08		*2008-09*		*2009-10*	
		Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Ethnicity	White	777	96.0	857	95.2	914	95.3
	Asian	13	1.6	17	1.9	15	1.6

Ethnicity of deceased solid organ donors in the UK, 1 April 2007-31 March 2010

		2007-08		2008-09		2009-10	
		Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
	Black	11	1.4	13	1.4	13	1.4
	Chinese	1	0.1	2	0.2	2	0.2
	Other	7	0.9	11	1.2	15	1.6
Total		809		900		959	

Ethnicity of registrants where given on the Organ Donor Register, as at 1 November 2010

Ethnic origin	*Number on the ODR*	*Percentage on the ODR*	*Percentage where ethnicity reported on the ODR*
White	2,958,770	16.9	96.7
Asian	38,891	0.2	1.3
Black	12,168	0.1	0.4
Chinese	4,563	0.0	0.1
Mixed	34,321	0.2	1.1
Other	11,331	0.1	0.4
Total reported	3,060,044	17.5	—
Not reported	14,475,152	82.5	—
Total	17,535,196		

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on increasing *(a)* the proportion of relatives who consent to organ donation by a deceased patient and *(b)* the number of donation after brain death donors. [21613]

Anne Milton: There is a range of ongoing activities to promote organ donation and increase donation rates. In autumn 2009, NHS Blood and Transplant launched a UK-wide public awareness campaign to encourage more people not just to join the Organ Donor Register (ODR), but also to discuss their wishes in relation to organ donation with family members.

NHS Blood and Transplant also work in partnership with the national health service, commercial and third sector organisations to support local promotional and awareness-raising activity around the country or national initiatives such as joining the ODR when registering with a doctor, or applying for a driving licence.

Steady improvement is being made. During 2009-10, organ donor rates increased to nearly 20% over the baseline year of 2007-08. We aim to see organ donor rates continue to rise this year, allowing many more people to benefit from a life saving or life enhancing transplant.

Our Life

Mark Menzies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much his Department has spent on marketing and communications for the organisation Our Life in the financial year 2010-11 to date; [22444]

(2) whether his Department has given funding to the organisation Our Life in the last three financial years; and whether it plans to provide funding for the organisation in the next financial year. [22479]

Anne Milton: Our Life is an independent social enterprise established by NHS North West to focus on engaging the public and bring about a significant shift in well-being, attitudes and health behaviours. It is not directly funded by the Department. As a charitable community benefit society, Our Life is funded through a combination of membership fees, grants, donations, sponsorship and consultancy services. Further information on this can be obtained from Our Life direct.

Primary Care Trusts: Debts

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has *(a)* taken or *(b)* plans to take steps to prevent primary care trusts from taking on debts prior to their abolition. [22752]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department is working with the strategic health authorities to address circumstances where primary care trusts (PCTs) owe money, with the expectation that any debt will be fully resolved by the end of 2012-13. The issue of PCT debt will be covered in further detail in the NHS Operating Framework for 2011-12.

Respiratory Diseases: Bexley

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people in the London borough of Bexley newly diagnosed with a respiratory disease in each of the last five years. [21753]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not collected centrally.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Kent

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of each type of sexually transmitted infection were reported by *(a)* South East Coast Strategic Health Authority, *(b)* West Kent Primary Care Trust and *(c)* Medway Primary Care Trust, in each year since 2007. [21088]

Anne Milton: Before 2009 data are only available at the strategic health authority (SHA) of the clinic attended. The number of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in South East Coast SHA, West Kent Primary Care Trust (PCT) and Medway PCT diagnosed in genitourinary medicine clinics (GUM) by location of the GUM clinic attended between 2007 and 2009 are presented in Table 1.

Since 2009, data have been collected by patient's area of residence. The number of STIs in 2009, in South East Coast SHA, West Kent PCT and Medway PCT diagnosed in GUM clinics by patient's area of residence are presented in Table 2.

The number of Chlamydia diagnoses made in community-based settings (non-GUM sites) in 15 to 24-year-olds resident in South East Coast SHA, West Kent PCT and Medway PCT are presented in Table 3.

Table 1: Number of STI diagnoses seen at genitourinary medicine (GUM) clinics by SHA and PCT of GUM clinic attended: 2007-09

		By GUM clinic				
		South East Coast SHA			*2009*	
Code group	*Diagnoses*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*West Kent PCT*	*Medway PCT*
A1, A2	Primary and secondary infectious syphilis	110	111	101	13	*
A3	Early latent syphilis (first two years)	74	57	45	*	0
A4, A5, A6	Other acquired syphilis	84	102	77	8	6
A7	Congenital syphilis, aged under two	0	*	0	0	0
A8	Congenital syphilis, aged two or over	0	*	0	0	0
A9	Epidemiological treatment of suspected syphilis	48	50	45	0	*
B1, B2	Uncomplicated gonorrhoea	755	563	626	75	34
B3	Gonococcal ophthalmia neonatorum	*	*	0	0	0
B4	Epidemiological treatment of suspected gonorrhoea	402	418	463	64	16
B5	Complicated gonococcal infection—including pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) and epididymitis	10	11	10	*	0
C1, C2, C3	Chancroid/Lymphogranuloma venerum/ Donovanosis	13	23	15	*	*
C10A	Anogenital herpes simplex—first episode	1,700	1,978	2,136	230	141
C10B	Anogenital herpes simplex—recurrence	1,202	1,509	1,749	225	110
C11A	Anogenital warts—first episode	5,764	6,095	6,386	894	497
C11B	Anogenital warts—recurrence	3,541	3,557	3,660	508	365
C11C	Anogenital warts—re-registered cases	1,300	1,574	1,506	253	112
C12	Molluscum contagiosum	1,097	1,201	1,154	136	161
C4A, C4C	Uncomplicated genital chlamydial infection	6,393	6,934	6,371	686	566
C4B	Complicated genital chlamydial infection—including PID and epididymitis	145	158	187	11	*
C4D	Chlamydial ophthalmia neonatorum	0	*	*	0	*
C4E	Epidemiological treatment of suspected genital chlamydial infection	3,549	3,958	3,753	558	351
C4H	Uncomplicated non-gonococcal/non-specific urethritis in males, or treatment of mucopurulent cervicitis in females	5,448	5,502	5,382	851	473
C4I	Epidemiological treatment of non-specific genital infection (NSGI)	1,852	1,699	1,824	191	252
C5	Complicated infection (non-chlamydial/non-gonococcal)—including PID and epididymitis	659	801	1,061	44	12
C6A	Trichomoniasis	142	116	148	37	19
C8, C9	Scabies/pediculosis pubis	107	100	141	5	11
E1A	New HIV diagnosis—asymptomatic	288	319	256	24	32
E1B, E2B	Subsequent HIV presentation (not AIDS)	5,131	5,503	6,974	635	266
E2A	New HIV diagnosis: symptomatic (not AIDS)	42	58	29	*	0
E3A1	AIDS: first presentation—new HIV diagnosis	18	28	23	*	0
E3A2	AIDS: first presentation—HIV diagnosed previously	*	12	*	0	0
E3B	AIDS—subsequent presentation	1,116	1,170	1,436	123	49
	Total new STI diagnoses	22,765	24,055	24,071	3,016	1,953
	Total other STI diagnoses	18,229	19,558	21,492	2,565	1,530
	Total STI diagnoses	40,994	43,613	45,563	5,581	3,483

Table 2: Number of STI diagnoses seen at genitourinary medicine (GUM) clinics by patient area of residence: 2009

			2009	
Code group	*Diagnoses*	*South East Coast SHA*	*West Kent PCT*	*Medway PCT*
A1, A2	Primary and secondary infectious syphilis	114	15	*
A3	Early latent syphilis (first two years)	48	*	0
A4, A5, A6	Other acquired syphilis	81	*	*
A7	Congenital syphilis, aged under two	0	0	0
A8	Congenital syphilis, aged two or over	0	0	0
A9	Epidemiological treatment of suspected syphilis	59	*	*
B1, B2	Uncomplicated gonorrhoea	631	82	27

Table 2: Number of STI diagnoses seen at genitourinary medicine (GUM) clinics by patient area of residence: 2009

		2009		
Code group	*Diagnoses*	*South East Coast SHA*	*West Kent PCT*	*Medway PCT*
B3	Gonococcal ophthalmia neonatorum	0	0	0
B4	Epidemiological treatment of suspected gonorrhoea	440	48	14
B5	Complicated gonococcal infection—including PID and epididymitis	12	*	0
C1, C2, C3	Chancroid/LGV/Donovanosis	17	*	*
C10A	Anogenital herpes simplex—first episode	2,018	226	121
C10B	Anogenital herpes simplex—recurrence	1,673	191	102
C11A	Anogenital warts—first episode	5,950	811	424
C11B	Anogenital warts—recurrence	3,392	454	317
C11C	Anogenital warts—re-registered cases	1,463	219	98
C12	Molluscum contagiosum	1,058	132	135
C4A, C4C	Uncomplicated genital chlamydial infection	6,000	663	486
C4B	Complicated genital chlamydial infection—including PID and epididymitis	204	15	*
C4D	Chlamydial ophthalmia neonatorum	[1]—	0	*
C4E	Epidemiological treatment of suspected genital chlamydial infection	3,543	506	285
C4H	Uncomplicated non-gonococcal/non-specific urethritis in males, or treatment of mucopurulent cervicitis in females	4,993	819	379
C4I	Epidemiological treatment of NSGI	1,713	208	208
C5	Complicated infection (non-chlamydial/non-gonococcal)—including PID and epididymitis	1,068	52	19
C6A	Trichomoniasis	148	39	13
C8, C9	Scabies/pediculosis pubis	131	*	10
E1A	New HIV diagnosis—asymptomatic	269	26	28
E1B, E2B	Subsequent HIV presentation (not AIDS)	6,651	558	214
E2A	New HIV diagnosis: symptomatic (not AIDS)	45	5	*
E3A1	AIDS: first presentation—new HIV diagnosis	31	*	*
E3A2	AIDS: first presentation—HIV diagnosed previously	7	0	0
E3B	AIDS—subsequent presentation	1,428	106	48
	Total new STI diagnoses	22,735	2,893	1,650
	Total other STI diagnoses	20,452	2,304	1,293
	Total STI diagnoses	43,187	5,197	2,943

[1] Indicates brace.

Notes:

1. Cell size of 1 to 4 have been masked (masked with an asterisk,*) to protect deductive disclosure in accordance with ONS guidelines for SHA/PCT level data. Totals include the masked counts.
2. Counts for categories C4B and C4D have been combined to prevent disclosure of small numbers, in accordance with ONS guidelines.
3. The data available from the KC60 (2008 and earlier) and GUMCAD (2009 onwards) returns are for diagnoses made in genitourinary medicine (GUM) clinics only. Diagnoses made in other clinical settings, such as General Practice, are not recorded in the GUMCAD dataset.
4. The data available from the KC60 and GUMCAD returns are the number of diagnoses made, not the number of patients diagnosed.
5. The difference between the total STI diagnoses in 2009 in Table 1 and 2 is due to patients attending GUM clinics in areas other than where they are resident.
6. The information provided is based on reported SHA data that has been adjusted for missing clinic data.

Date of Data:
25 August 2010
Source:
Health Protection Agency, KC60 and Genitourinary Medicine Clinic Activity Dataset (GUMCAD) returns.

Table 3: Number of Chlamydia diagnoses in 15 to 24-year-olds resident within the South East Coast SHA, West Kent PCT and Medway PCT made in community-based settings 2007-09

	2007	*2008*	*2009*
South East Coast SHA	1,509	3,385	4,922
West Kent PCT	196	399	643
Medway PCT	144	361	546

Notes:

1. The NCSP has been phased in since 1 April 2003 with all 152 PCTs reporting data to the programme since March 2008. Therefore numbers of diagnoses have risen substantially as the proportion of sexually active under 25-year-olds who have been tested has increased.
2. Collection of non-NCSP, non-GUM data commenced from April 2008.
3. The data from the NCSP Core Dataset and the Non NCSP Non GUM are for positive Chlamydia diagnoses made outside of GUM clinics.
4. The data in Table 3 are the number of diagnoses made and not the number of patients diagnosed.

Date of Data:
NCSP Core Dataset: 25 October 2010; Non NCSP Non GUM Data: 5 August 2010.
Source:
Health Protection Agency, National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP), NCSP returns and Non NCSP Non GUM data

Smallpox: Vaccination

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS staff are vaccinated against smallpox for the purposes of first response in the event of a smallpox outbreak or biological attack. [21898]

Anne Milton: Vaccination of a cohort of front line health workers to deal with any initial suspected or confirmed case of smallpox if one were to occur was completed in 2005. The cohort comprised 516 vaccinated personnel of whom 147 were doctors, 164 were nurses, 100 were ambulance staff, 32 were scientists and 73 held other related health care occupations. All were carefully screened and monitored and none had adverse complications that required vaccinia immunoglobulin. There is no proposal to increase the numbers of people in the cohort.

Thrombolysis: Health Services

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to increase the number of NHS hospitals providing access to thrombolysis treatment 24 hours a day, seven days a week. [22126]

Mr Simon Burns: Thrombolysis is only suitable for a small proportion of people who have had an ischaemic stroke. We want to develop the system so that everyone who has a stroke, and can benefit from thrombolysis, is able to receive it safely. Pathways to achieve this will vary between local health economies. For example, some areas have developed a smaller number of hospitals providing a 24 hour, seven day a week service for a larger population, while others are developing telemedicine arrangements to access stroke specialist expertise remotely out of hours.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence Stroke Quality Standard launched in June 2010 is a set of specific, concise statements that act as markers of high quality, cost-effective patient care covering treatment and prevention. Statement three in this stroke standard says "patients with suspected stroke are admitted directly to a specialist acute stroke unit and assessed for thrombolysis, receiving it if clinically indicated."

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Daresbury Laboratory: Finance

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding his Department plans to allocate to Daresbury Laboratory in 2011-12 to 2013-14; and if he will make a statement. [21822]

Mr Willetts: In the recent spending review my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced that the Government will spend £4.6 billion on science and research programmes in each of the next four years within a ring-fenced budget. Capital and administration spending on science and research have not yet been decided.

In the coming months, Ministers will make decisions on the balance of funding between the individual research councils, HEFCE's research and knowledge transfer activities, the national academies and other programmes. Detailed decisions on specific projects, like the Daresbury Laboratory will be taken by research councils, in line with the Haldane Principle.

Debts: Advisory Services

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will provide funding to debt advisory organisations which have the objective of preventing home repossessions. [22123]

Mr Davey: Currently this Department is contributing £1 million per annum of grant funding to the National Debtline freephone service. This Department also administers the Financial Inclusion Fund's Face-to-Face Debt Advice Project (£27 million per annum), which assists clients with their money problems. Some of the people that use both of these services will also receive advice on their mortgage problems.

Dentistry: Higher Education

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to page 25 of the Browne Review of Higher Education and Student Finance, if he will classify dentistry as a clinical and priority course. [22275]

Mr Willetts: Dentistry is currently classified as a clinical course. As a reflection of the importance of, and relative expense associated with delivering dentistry and other priority courses, direct public grant will continue to meet a proportion of the costs.

EU Grants and Loans

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether a cut-off date has been set for drawing down European Regional Development Fund funding to the UK in the event that matched funding is not made available. [22083]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 4 November 2010]*: No cut-off date has been set for drawing down European Regional Development Fund funding to the UK. The Government expect that the UK's 2007-13 European Regional Development Fund programmes will continue to operate until their end date of 2015.

Fireworks: Sales

Mr Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on reducing the misuse of fireworks; [22291]

(2) what steps his Department takes to enforce regulations on the sale of fireworks to minors; [22292]

(3) what plans he has for the future regulation of the sale of fireworks. [22293]

Mr Davey: While my officials are in contact with the Department for Communities and Local Government, they talk more regularly with officials at Local Government Regulation, the body which advises trading standards departments, who are in turn responsible for enforcement of age-related sales. There are no plans to revise the legislation on the sale and use of fireworks.

Green Investment Bank

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what *(a)* governance mechanisms, *(b)* business model and *(c)* sources of funding he plans to put in place for the proposed Green Investment Bank. [22106]

Mr Prisk: Governance mechanisms and business model will depend on the final design of the Green Investment Bank (GIB). The GIB will make its investment decisions independent from political control and employ private sector skills and expertise.

Decisions on design will be subject to the Government's tests of effectiveness, affordability and transparency.

The GIB will be initially capitalised with £1 billion of funding allocated from departmental budgets together with additional significant proceeds from the sale of Government-owned assets.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the Green Investment Bank will issue its own bonds. [22880]

Mr Prisk: The Green Investment Bank will be funded through £1 billion of departmental expenditure limit funding and additional significant proceeds from asset sales. Decisions on additional funding sources is subject to further design and market testing work. Decisions will be subject to the Government's tests of effectiveness, affordability and transparency.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the effects of his Department's proposed reductions to the number of higher education places on the likely social mobility of students unable to gain a university place in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12. [22129]

Mr Willetts: There has not been a reduction in the number of higher education places. In 2009-10 the Government provided funding for 1,170,000 full time equivalent places. The coalition Government are funding 1,190,000 full time equivalent places in 2010-11, including the 10,000 places announced as part of the University Modernisation Fund. The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) will receive its annual grant letter for 2011-12 in due course. It will set out the number of funded places for that year. Going to university has always been a competitive process and not all those who apply will be accepted. The Government are working hard to ensure there are other equally valuable routes into a successful career and as part of the spending review this Government will be funding an additional 75,000 apprenticeships a year by 2014/15.

Higher Education: ICT

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with representatives of universities on online education for students; and if he will make a statement. [21907]

Mr Willetts: I have regular discussions with university representatives about a wide range of issues, including online education.

I have also met Dame Lynne Brindley twice recently in her role as the chair of the independent Online Learning Task Force. The Task Force was established by HEFCE to make recommendations regarding the development of excellence in online learning, to support higher education (HE) in exploiting fully its pedagogical and commercial opportunities, with the aim of our HE sector sustaining its excellence and growing its market share. Although it was set up under the last Government, the Task Force has our full support for its objectives.

The appropriate use of digital technology in education has a very important role to play in both supporting and enhancing higher education. It can help universities to improve the quality of their provision, meet the expectations of today's digitally-aware students and fully engage disadvantaged students in HE—especially those with disabilities and caring responsibilities—as well as enabling them to deliver HE in more flexible ways.

I am therefore looking forward to seeing the Task Force's recommendations when they report in the near future and I anticipate saying more about the role of online education when we publish our Higher Education White Paper later this winter.

Higher Education: Student Loans

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the age at which student loans of *(a)* £7,000, *(b)* £10,000 and *(c)* £12,000 will be paid off by graduates in each income decile following implementation of the proposals in the Browne Review of higher education funding. [20746]

Mr Willetts: The Government have now set out their proposals for higher education and student finance in Parliament following the Browne Review of Higher Education and Student Finance. The Government have broadly accepted Lord Browne's proposals on repayment while adapting the system to make it more progressive.

We have estimated the number of years students are likely to be in repayment if the proposals in the Browne Review were to be implemented.

Graduates move into repayment from the April after they leave university. The following table gives the number of years that we estimate graduates will be in repayment, though in each year there will be many graduates who will be eligible to repay as they have left university while benefiting from the low income protection and not actually making any repayments.

Graduates who are still in repayment after 30 years have the balance of their loan cancelled and are considered to be in repayment for 30 years. Graduates who fully repay their loan on graduation are considered to be in repayment for 0 years. Graduates who have their loans cancelled for death or disability are considered to be in repayment for the number of years until their loan is cancelled.

This has been based on a student on a three-year course taking out a loan in each year.

Average number of years in repayment

Lifetime earnings decile	*£7,000/year*	*£10,000/year*	*£12,000/year*
10	10	13	15
9	15	20	23
8	16	21	24
7	17	23	26
6	21	25	27
5	23	26	28
4	26	28	29
3	27	29	29
2	26	27	27
1	22	22	22

The figures are affected by the inclusion of graduates who have their loans written off for death or disability, particularly in the lowest decile as they are only in repayment until their loan is written off. As a result they are in repayment for a shorter period and they bring the average down.

Higher Education: Watford

Richard Harrington: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the proportion of young people resident in Watford who continued to higher education in each year since 2000. [22361]

Mr Willetts: Figures relating to the proportion of young people resident in Watford who continued to higher education (HE) are not available. As an alternative, the latest available information on the proportion of 15-years-old from maintained schools in Hertfordshire local authority who progressed to HE by age 19 is shown in the table. Figures for earlier years are not available.

Estimates of the proportion of 15-year-olds in 2001/02, 2002/03 and 2003/04 from maintained schools in Hertfordshire local authority who progressed to HE[1] by age 19 in 2005/06, 2006/07 and 2007/08

Academic year	*Percentage who progressed to HE by age 19*
2005/06	38
2006/07	39
2007/08	39

[1] Includes those who progress to higher education courses at English further education colleges.

Source:

Matched data from the National Pupil Database, the Higher Education Statistics Agency Student Record and the Individualised Learner Record.

Richard Harrington: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people in Watford constituency applied to higher education institutions in the last 12 months; and what proportion of such people had their applications accepted. [22435]

Mr Willetts: The latest figures provided by UCAS show that, as at 13 October, 1,209 people resident in Watford constituency had applied to enter full-time undergraduate courses via UCAS during the 2010 application cycle, and 871 (or 72%) were accepted for entry. The 2010 application cycle runs from September 2009 to October 2010, and covers applicants applying to enter courses starting in autumn 2010, or, on the basis of deferred entry, 2011.

Higher Education: West Midlands

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many young people normally resident in *(a)* Coventry and *(b)* the West Midlands studied undergraduate courses at university in each year since 1997; and how much was paid to such students in non-refundable grants and bursaries. [22130]

Mr Willetts: The latest available information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) on undergraduate enrolments from Coventry and the west midlands is shown in Table 1. Figures for the 2009/10 academic year will be available in January 2011. Figures for undergraduate enrolments to higher education (HE) level courses at further education (FE) colleges are not available by parliamentary constituency, and are therefore excluded.

Table 1: Undergraduate enrolments[1] from Coventry local authority[2] and West Midlands Government office region, UK higher education institutions[3], academic years 1997/98 to 2008/09

Academic year	*Coventry*	*Number* *West Midlands*
1997/98	2,325	44,965
1998/99	2,505	47,510
1999/2000	2,650	48,965
2000/01	2,720	49,870
2001/02	2,790	50,400
2002/03	2,820	51,990
2003/04	2,855	53,860
2004/05	3,045	54,485
2005/06	3,145	56,420
2006/07	3,115	56,915
2007/08	3,075	57,835
2008/09	3,245	60,010

[1] Enrolments cover all years of study, not just first-year students.

[2] Excludes those whose local authority could not be established due to missing or invalid postcode information.

[3] Excludes the Open university due to inconsistencies in their coding across the time series.

Note:

Figures are based on a 1 December snapshot and have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Tables 2 and 3 show information from the Student Loans Company (SLC) on applicants awarded grants for maintenance and the amounts awarded. These figures are on a different basis from the HESA figures in Table 1 which include part-time enrolments and should not be combined in calculations. SLC figures include postgraduate and part-time initial teacher training applicants who were awarded HE grants and maintenance grants. Other part-time support is not covered. Applicants awarded grants for HE courses in FE colleges are included. The HE grant was introduced in 2004/05; figures are shown from that year onwards. The maintenance grant was introduced for new students from 2006/07 and replaced the HE grant. The HE grant continued to be available to those who had entered higher education in 2004/05 and 2005/06.

Table 2: Grants for maintenance[1] from Coventry local authority, academic years 2004/05 to 2008/09

Academic year	*Grant*	*Applicants awarded (number)*	*Amount awarded (£)*
2004/05	HE grant	730	620,000
2005/06	HE grant	1,360	1,190,000

Table 2: Grants for maintenance[1] from Coventry local authority, academic years 2004/05 to 2008/09

Academic year	*Grant*	*Applicants awarded (number)*	*Amount awarded (£)*
2006/07	HE grant	1,090	950,000
	Maintenance grant[2]	1,140	2,280,000
2007/08	HE grant	670	610,000
	Maintenance grant[2]	2,130	4,460,000
2008/09	HE grant	210	190,000
	Maintenance grant[2]	3,330	7,200,000

[1] Applicant figures are rounded to nearest 10, amounts awarded to nearest £10,000. Includes awards to students who subsequently withdrew from their course or suspended study.

[2] Maintenance grant figures include special support grant.

Source:

Student Loans Company.

Table 3: Grants for maintenance[1] from West Midlands Government office region, academic years 2004/05 to 2008/09

Academic year	*Grant*	*Applicants awarded (number)*	*Amount awarded (£)*
2004/05	HE grant	11,220	9,560,000
2005/06	HE grant	21,070	18,130,000
2006/07	HE grant	16,980	14,920,000
	Maintenance grant[2]	18,810	36,680,000
2007/08	HE grant	10,420	9,210,000
	Maintenance grant[2]	34,210	69,300,000
2008/09	HE Grant	3,330	2,930,000
	Maintenance Grant[2]	51,620	108,860,000

[1] Applicant figures are rounded to nearest 10, amounts awarded to nearest £10,000. Includes awards to students who subsequently withdrew from their course or suspended study.

[2] Maintenance Grant figures include special support grant.

Source:

Student Loans Company.

The information requested on bursaries is not available centrally as they are the responsibility of HE institutions.

Innovation: Finance

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether innovation centres will be funded directly by his Department. [22308]

Mr Willetts: Funding for the technology and innovation centres will be allocated by the BIS-funded Technology Strategy Board to ensure that the areas of activity are prioritised and aligned to the national technology strategy.

The model for the centres will see this core public sector funding leverage significant contract funding from the private sector, alongside grant funding from the EU and national research programmes, which in turn leverage funding from the private sector.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what factors he took into account in determining the level of funding by his Department for the new innovation centres. [22455]

Mr Willetts: The Department will provide over £200 million of funding for technology and innovation centres over the next four years. This level of funding was based on a number of factors including:

(i) Discussions with the Technology Strategy Board on its future priorities and the need for, and role of, centres to help deliver its strategic objectives within its priority areas of activity.

(ii) An assessment of support provided to existing centres, and

(iii) Discussions with stakeholders including those undertaken by officials as part of the Hauser review, which suggested that an individual centre would require between £5 million and £10 million per annum to be viable.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the £200 million allocation announced by the Prime Minister for innovation centres will be drawn from the £4.6 billion fund announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer as protected science spend. [22456]

Mr Willetts: No. The allocation of funding technology and innovation centres will be part of the Technology Strategy Board's settlement, which is part of my Department's budget supporting business innovation. This is complementary but distinct from the activity supported by the protected science budget.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he proposes that innovation centres attract external funding additional to the sum committed by his Department. [22498]

Mr Willetts: The centres will be based on the model proposed by Hermann Hauser and James Dyson, which sees core public sector funding leverage significant contract funding from the private sector, alongside grant funding from EU and national research programmes, which in turn leverage funding from the private sector.

Mandarin Chinese: Higher Education

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many UK-based students are studying on degree courses in Mandarin Chinese in universities in England in 2010-11; and how many he expects to take such courses in each of the next 10 years. [21947]

Mr Willetts: The latest available information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) relates to the 2008/09 academic year. Figures for 2009/10 will be available in January 2011, and for 2010/11 in January 2012. Figures for Mandarin Chinese are not available. Chinese Studies/Chinese Language Studies has been provided as an alternative.

In the 2008/09 academic year, there were 590 UK domiciled first degree enrolments studying either Chinese Studies or Chinese Language Studies at English Higher Education Institutions.

We do not forecast the number of students we expect to be studying individual degree subjects.

Overseas Students: Palestinians

Mark Menzies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what routes are available for students resident in the West Bank and Gaza to study at UK universities. [22447]

Mr Willetts: UK universities recruit students from all around the world including from the Palestinian Territories. In 2008/09, the latest year for which data are available, the Higher Education Statistics Agency recorded 75 students from the West Bank (including East Jerusalem) and Gaza studying at UK higher education institutions.

Policy on admissions rests with individual universities. Places for students outside the European Union are not publicly funded and nor are the numbers controlled centrally. This means that universities are free to set their own limits although they must satisfy themselves that applicants meet the necessary entry requirements for their courses.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is supporting the Higher Education Scholarships for Palestine Programme (HESPAL) which will see 10 academics a year from Palestinian universities complete a year's postgraduate study at a UK partner university. The programme is managed by the British Council and funded jointly by private sponsors, participating universities and the Government.

Overseas Trade: Iran

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received on the signing of new contracts between UK-based companies and Iranian companies. [22405]

Mr Prisk: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has not received any representations on the signing of new contracts between UK-based and Iranian companies.

Redundancy

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding to meet staff redundancy costs was identified in his Department's settlement letter in respect of the comprehensive spending review. [21508]

Mr Davey: The administration budget of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) will reduce by an overall 40% in real terms over the spending review including savings that will come with the abolition of RDAs.

All pressures on Departments' budgets were taken into account as part of the spending review and settlements were allocated accordingly. The full cost of redundancies will be met from within this Department's spending review resource departmental expenditure limit—DEL—settlement.

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of redundancies arising from the spending reductions proposed in the comprehensive spending review in respect of *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies and *(c)* other public bodies which are dependent on his Department for funding. [21509]

Mr Davey: The administration budget of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) will reduce by an overall 40% in real terms over the spending review including savings that will come with the abolition of regional development agencies.

The expected savings for BIS and its partner organisations (excluding RDAs) is equivalent to a 22% reduction (net of redundancies) over four years.

Determining optimal work force reforms in order to live within this Department's spending review resource DEL settlement will be an ongoing process. Detailed decisions regarding the number of redundancies that may be required have yet to be finalised.

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of staff redundancy in each of the next four years. [21510]

Mr Davey: The administration budget of the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) will reduce by an overall 40% in real terms over the spending review including savings that will come with the abolition of RDAs.

The expected savings for BIS and its partner organisations (excluding RDAs) is equivalent to a 22% reduction (net of redundancies) over four years.

Determining optimal work force reforms in order to live within this Department's spending review resource DEL settlement will be an ongoing process. Detailed decisions regarding the number of redundancies that may be required have yet to be finalised.

Regional Development Agencies

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he plans to take to ensure that the disposal of the business and technology-related assets of regional development agencies will create maximum long-term value for the economy and their local areas. [22460]

Mr Prisk: Business and technology assets, like all other RDA assets, will be disposed of in line with a set of guiding principles which includes the requirement for decisions on disposal of assets to reflect the need to further the economic development and regeneration of the relevant area. It is also the case that some assets have national strategic importance and this will be taken into account when considering the future destination of such an asset.

Students: Fess and Charges

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the proportion of students likely to pay off tuition fee debts (a) partially and (b) fully within 30 years of graduation following the implementation of his proposals regarding tuition fee levels; and if he will make a statement. [20216]

Mr Willetts: The Government have now set out their proposals for higher education and student finance in Parliament following the Browne review of higher education and student finance. The Government have broadly accepted Lord Browne's proposals on repayment while adapting the system to make it more progressive.

The estimated proportion of students who would repay a typical £30,000 of loans in full within 30 years is 50%, while 48-49% will partially repay and 1-2% will make no repayments either because their income does not surpass the repayment threshold or because they die or become permanently disabled.

Students: Finance

Sir Alan Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the cost of the Student Loans Scheme was to *(a)* the body handling the administration of such loans, *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs and *(c)* the Government Departments involved (i) in real terms and (ii) as a proportion of monies repaid by borrowers in each of the last five years. [21608]

Mr Willetts: Student loans form part of a broader package of financial support provided to students in Higher Education. The costs relating to individual elements of this package are not held separately. The available information is presented in the following table:

		Department's contributions to the costs of the Student Loans Company Limited[1]		*Department's contributions to the costs of HM Revenue and Customs on the student finance*		*Total cost to the Department and its predecessors for activities related to Higher Education policy and delivery*[2]	
Financial year	*Total student loans repayments collected (£ million)*	*In real terms (£ million)*	*As a proportion of repayments collected (percentage)*	*In real terms (£ million)*	*As a proportion of repayments collected (percentage)*	*In real terms (£ million)*	*As a proportion of repayments collected (percentage)*
2005-06	481.6	49.9	10.4	4.9	1.0	8.2	1.7
2006-07	529.9	52.4	9.9	5.1	1.0	8.4	1.6
2007-08	633.5	48.4	7.6	4.9	0.8	8	1.3
2008-09	899.6	78.6	8.7	4.1	0.5	7.8	0.9
2009-10	1,009.7	79.8	7.9	6.2	0.6	7.5	0.7

[1] Costs provided relate to the assessment and payment of both loans and grants to English students, and the collection of repayment of loans from English students. Specific costs for the policy and delivery relating specifically to student loans are not held and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

[2] Costs provided represent the total cost of providing Higher Education policy and delivery. Specific costs for the policy and delivery relating specifically to student loans are not held and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Atos Healthcare

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department paid for the services provided by Atos Healthcare in 2009-10. [22688]

Chris Grayling: The Department has paid Atos Healthcare £107 million in 2009-10 for the services provided under the medical services agreement. This figure not only covers the total number of examinations undertaken across all benefits, but also costs relating to written and verbal medical advice, fixed overheads, administrative costs, investment in new technology and other service improvements.

Children: Maintenance

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions he has had with the Child Support Agency on the difference between the amount of money collected from parents and the amount they have been assessed as being required to pay; and if he will make a statement. [22663]

Maria Miller: Although the CSA have improved their performance over the last few years, there is still much that needs to be done. There have been a number of meetings with the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission to ensure that an effective child maintenance system is available to families as part of the Government's commitment to supporting shared parenting and promoting parental responsibility.

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the Child Support Agency has *(a)* assessed as being due and *(b)* collected in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [22664][1]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to my hon. Friend with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how much the Child Support Agency has (a) assessed as being due and (b) collected in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [22664]

The attached table provides an estimate of the value of money assessed as being due and the value of money collected or arranged.

The value of money assessed as being due has been calculated by taking the average weekly assessment at September each year (excluding nil liability), and multiplying it by the caseload as at September.

Figures on average weekly assessment and caseload are available within the Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary of Statistics available in the House of Commons library or online at

http://www.childmaintenance.org/en/publications/statistics.html

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[1] *[Official Report, 13 December 2010, Vol. 520, c. 1MC.]*

Table 1: Assessed amount due and collections

Quarter to:	*Cases with maintenance liability*	*Average weekly assessment (£)*	*Annual assessed amount (£ million)*	*Total Child Maintenance collected or arranged (£ million)*
September 2006	751,700	37	1,146	867
September 2007	825,100	35	1,502	942
September 2008	855,700	35	1,557	1,090
September 2009	834,000	34	1,475	1,131
September 2010	854,100	34	1,510	1,146

Notes:

1. Caseload figures rounded to nearest 100.
2. Arrears and collections figures rounded to nearest £1m.
3. Caseload figures include cases administered on both the CS2 and CSCS computer systems as well as cases administered off system with the exception of the September 2006 figure and represent a snapshot as of September each year.
4. Collections and arrangements are a true representation of the amount collected and arranged over the 12 months to September.
5. Weekly assessment figures include cases administered on the CS2 and CSCS computer systems only and exclude cases administered off system. Work is underway to more accurately calculate the value of assessments.

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to reduce the amount of time taken to make Child Support Agency assessments; and if he will make a statement. [22665]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to reduce the amount of time taken to make Child Support Agency assessments; and if he will make a statement. [22665]

The Child Support Agency has a client service target to clear 80% of new applications within 12 weeks, and this measure continues to be used to monitor and promote performance improvements. An application is classed as cleared when a non resident parent has been traced and has accepted parentage, income details have been established, a calculation made and a payment schedule established (or if the application is withdrawn or closed before a schedule is established). Performance against this target is routinely published in the Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary of Statistics which is available in the House of Commons library or online at:

http://www.childmaintenance.org/en/publications/stats0910.html

The latest figures show that 88% of applications received in June 2010 were cleared within 12 weeks. This is an increase from 86% three months earlier and continues a steady increase since March 2005 when 30% were cleared in 12 weeks. 93% of intake received in April 2010 was cleared within 18 weeks, the same as three months earlier. 96% of intake received in March 2010 was cleared within 26 weeks. This is an increase from 95% three months earlier.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Council Tax

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the average annual administrative cost to local authorities of the proposal to devolve to them responsibility for *(a)* council tax benefit and *(b)* implementing the proposed £500 a week benefit cap. [20532]

Steve Webb: The Government are working to develop the new arrangements including the detailed administrative implications for local authorities which have yet to be determined.

Council Tax Benefits

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make an assessment of the effects on each local authority of the proposed 10% reduction in council tax benefit. [21036]

Steve Webb: The Government are working to develop the new arrangements including the detailed administrative implications for local authorities which have yet to be determined.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average annual council tax benefit payment was for a *(a)* pensioner and *(b)* household including at least one person of working age in each local authority area in the latest period for which figures are available. [22609]

Steve Webb: The information has been placed in the Library.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department has established processes to monitor any effects of proposed reductions in its expenditure. [21628]

Chris Grayling: As part of its efficiency challenge, the Department is ensuring that its administrative spending is targeted for cost reduction. This is being monitored through internal reporting and externally by the National Audit Office.

Any reductions in expenditure affecting customers are monitored through equality impact assessments and in line with the Department's commitment on transparency will be published when they are available.

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much and what proportion of the welfare budget his Department spent on *(a)* housing benefit and *(b)* the state retirement pension in each of the last five years. [22322]

Steve Webb: The information is in the table.

	Expenditure, Great Britain, 2010-11 prices, £ million		*Proportion of total benefit expenditure (percentage)*	
	Housing benefit	*State pension*	*Housing benefit*	*State pension*
2005-06	15,859	58,552	12.0	44.4
2006-07	16,413	59,348	12.5	45.0
2007-08	16,910	61,909	12.5	45.7
2008-09	17,934	64,584	12.6	45.5
2009-10	20,558	68,838	13.5	45.3

Notes:

1. Housing benefit figures include that element funded from local authorities' own funds.
2. State pension expenditure includes basic state pension, state second pension and graduated retirement benefit.
3. Expenditure information by benefit can be found on the internet at the following address: http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/index.php?page=expenditure

Source:

DWP accounting data and local authority subsidy returns.

Depression: Access to Work

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what support his Department provides to enable people with depression to find work; and if he will make a statement. [20536]

Chris Grayling: DWP is fully committed to supporting disabled people, including those with mental health difficulties such as depression, to find suitable, sustainable work through Jobcentre Plus Personal Advisers, including disability employment advisers (DEAs), and programmes.

The Work Programme will be an integrated package of support providing personalised help to a broad range of customers, including those who may previously have been receiving incapacity benefits for many years. We will offer providers higher rewards for supporting harder to help customers into employment to ensure that it is worthwhile for providers to offer all customer groups, including those with disabilities or health conditions, appropriate employment support. We aim to have the Work Programme in place nationally by the summer of 2011.

Jobcentre Plus policy is to develop its people in the skills required to manage a range of behaviours demonstrated by customers, covering a variety of health conditions. This approach ensures that they are equipped to deal with a diverse set of circumstances whilst treating customers as individuals.

Skilled employment advisers look at the interaction between the person, the job and an individual's ability. Advisers ensure that job goals relate to the person's abilities and that work solutions are sought which overcome any challenges a customer might face in a particular job.

DWP and the other partners in the cross-government Health Work and Well-being Executive also have a programme of action for those in work. The programme of action looks to improve health at work and to reduce the level of ill health related job loss. It has a particular focus on support for people who have mental health conditions, as they are more likely to face stigma and discrimination and less likely to have access to timely diagnosis and the sorts of interventions that could help keep them in or help them to return to work quickly.

Disability Living Allowance

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the number of *(a)* men and *(b)* women in each parliamentary constituency in residential care who were in receipt of the mobility component of disability living allowance in 2009-10. [21757]

Maria Miller: Reliable estimates of gender of disability living allowance claimants in residential care homes are not available.

Employment and Support Allowance

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many disabled people are claiming employment and support allowance in *(a)* the UK *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* Walsall South constituency. [22016]

Chris Grayling: The information is provided in the following table:

Caseloads of employment support allowance in Great Britain, West Midlands GOR and Walsall South parliamentary constituency

	Number of people claiming employment and support allowance
Great Britain	479,430
West Midlands GOR	43,190
Walsall South Parliamentary Constituency	880

Notes:

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest ten; some additional disclosure control has also been applied.
2. Employment and support allowance (ESA). ESA replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008.
3. Figures are published on: http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=esa
4. The national data provided is for Great Britain as the information regarding Northern Ireland is the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Office.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Employment and Support Allowance: Bradford

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of claimants of employment and support allowance in the Bradford area *(a)* have been found capable of work, *(b)* have appealed against that decision and *(c)* have had their appeal granted since May 2005. [22746]

Chris Grayling: The information is as follows:

(a) Employment and support allowance (ESA) was introduced in October 2008. From the latest available data, 3,990 or 48% of all new ESA claims received in the Bradford local authority area were found fit for work at their initial work capability assessment (WCA), between October 2008 and February 2010.

(b) This information is not available. Data on appeals are collated only at the point the outcome is received from the Tribunals Service.

(c) Of all new ESA claims received between October 2008 and August 2009 that were found fit for work at the initial WCA, 850 or 34% have had an appeal heard by July 2010. Of this number, 260 or 31% of appeals heard found in favour of the appellant. The number of appeals heard after August 2009 is too low for inclusion.

All caseload figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 and percentages to the nearest percentage point. These data are taken from benefit claims data held by the Department for Work and Pensions, functional assessment data from Atos Healthcare and appeals data sourced from the Tribunals Service.

The Department regularly publishes official statistics on the work capability assessment. More information can be found on the departmental website here:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/esa_wca/index.php?page=esa_wca_arc

Employment Schemes: Young People

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has made an assessment of the likely effect on the level of unemployment in the North East of cancelling the proposed extension of Young Person's Guarantee to 2011-12. [19255]

Chris Grayling: The young people's guarantee extension was cancelled as we will introduce the Work Programme by summer 2011.

The Work Programme will provide an integrated package of personalised support on the basis of need rather than on the benefit claimed. It will be delivered by contractors drawn from the private, public and voluntary sectors with stronger incentives to get people into sustained work by paying delivery partners out of the additional benefits they realise as a result of placing people into work. We expect the Work Programme to improve employment outcomes for young people throughout the country including in the North East.

Alongside the core Work Programme, a series of individual support measures are being introduced to Get Britain Working including:

The new Enterprise Allowance scheme, giving access to business mentors and start-up loans;

Work clubs, to give unemployed people a place to share skills and experiences;

Service academies, which will offer specialised pre-employment training and work placements; and

Work Together, to encourage and facilitate volunteering.

Further support is also being planned for young people, including work experience opportunities, more apprenticeships and more further education places.

Until the Work Programme is implemented, the Government will ensure appropriate support is in place.

Housing Benefit

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the proportion of the population of each *(a)* local authority and *(b)* parliamentary constituency which was in receipt of local housing allowance in the latest period for which figures are available. [18602]

Steve Webb: Information is not available at parliamentary constituency level. A copy of the available information has been placed in the Library.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many properties his Department estimated were in the private rental sector in each local authority area in March 2010; and what proportion of households resident in such properties were in receipt of local housing allowance in March 2010. [22611]

Steve Webb: My most recent estimate is that approximately 40% of tenants in the private rented sector receive housing benefit.

This is a national figure; reliable estimates at local level are not available.

Housing Benefit: Chester

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many households in *(a)* Cheshire West and Chester and *(b)* City of Chester constituencies claimed housing benefit for a (i) one-bedroom property, (ii) two-bedroom property, (iii) three-bedroom property and (iv) four-bedroom or greater property in the latest period for which figures are available; [20036]

(2) how many households in *(a)* Cheshire West and Chester and *(b)* City of Chester constituencies claimed housing benefit of more than (i) £250 a week for a one-bedroom property, (ii) £290 a week for a two-bedroom property, (iii) £340 a week for a three-bedroom property and (iv) £400 a week for a four or more bedroom property in the latest period for which figures are available. [20037]

Steve Webb: The Department published a document on 'Impacts of Housing Benefit proposals: Changes to the Local Housing Allowance to be introduced in 2011-12' on 23 July, which includes analysis at the local authority level. A copy of the document has been placed in the Library.

Housing Benefit: Argyll and Bute

Mr Reid: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what level of local housing allowance is payable in the Argyll and Bute Broad Rental Market Area; and what level would be payable at the 30th percentile for each dwelling size. [22742]

Steve Webb: The information for November 2010 is shown in the table. The Scottish Executive calculates and publishes every month the future 30th percentile rates alongside the current local housing allowance rates for all Broad Rental Market Areas in Scotland.

Local housing allowance rates, November 2010, Argyll and Bute

Bedroom entitlement	*Current rate (£ per week)*	*30th percentile rate (£ per week)*
Shared-room	73.85	69.23
One-bedroom	91.15	80.77
Two-bedroom	114.23	103.85
Three-bedroom	133.85	126.92
Four-bedroom	196.15	173.08
Five-bedroom	253.85	n/a

n/a = not applicable

Note:

Under the reform proposals, bedroom entitlement will be capped at the four-bedroom rate so no five-bedroom rate is calculated.

Source:

Scottish Executive website

Housing Benefit: Armed Forces

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of partners, spouses or dependants of armed services personnel who are serving or have served in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq who were in receipt of housing benefit in the most recent period for which figures are available. [22049]

Steve Webb: This information is not available.

Housing Benefit: Scotland

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households receiving housing benefit in Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch East constituency contain at least one individual who has been in receipt of Jobseeker's Allowance for more than a year. [22673]

Steve Webb: The information requested is not available.

From February 2007, DWP has been collecting more detailed housing benefit and council tax benefit data electronically from local authorities. Over time this will improve the accuracy, timeliness and level of detail available in the published statistics, as the information supplied is quality assured.

At present, the management information needed to estimate durations on housing benefit has not been sufficiently quality assured; and, while information is collected on the number of claimants in receipt of a passported benefit, which includes income-based jobseeker's allowance, the total number of jobseeker's allowance claimants receiving housing benefit is not available.

Housing benefit caseload and average weekly amounts are available at local authority area level and these are published on the Department's website at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/hbctb.asp

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households receiving housing benefit in Scotland consist of at least one individual who has been in receipt of Jobseeker's Allowance for more than a year. [22674]

Steve Webb: The information requested is not available.

From February 2007, DWP has been collecting more detailed housing benefit and council tax benefit data electronically from local authorities. Over time this will improve the accuracy, timeliness and level of detail available in the published statistics, as the information supplied is quality assured.

At present, the management information needed to estimate durations on housing benefit has not been sufficiently quality assured; and, while information is collected on the number of claimants in receipt of a passported benefit, which includes income-based jobseeker's allowance, the total number of jobseeker's allowance claimants receiving housing benefit is not available.

Housing benefit caseload and average weekly amounts are available at local authority area level and these are published on the Department's website at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/hbctb.asp

Industrial Health and Safety

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many prosecutions the Health and Safety Executive brought against employers in cases of failure to manage high temperatures in the workplace in 2009. [22348]

Chris Grayling: From 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010, the Health and Safety Executive took no prosecutions as a result of employers' failures to manage high temperatures in the workplace.

Parliamentary and Healthcare Ombudsman

James Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in respect of how many cases *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in Halesowen and Rowley Regis constituency Atos Healthcare has been referred to (i) the Independent Case Examiner and (ii) the Parliamentary and Healthcare Ombudsman since 2005 on matters related to the General Medical Council's codes of conduct and confidentiality. [20042]

Maria Miller: With regard to the number of case referrals made to the (i) Independent Case Examiner and (ii) the Parliamentary and Healthcare Ombudsman, the Department does not keep information on issues relating to GMC codes of conduct and confidentiality.

The Independent Case Examiner will investigate complaints about Atos Healthcare referred to him by customers of Jobcentre Plus and the Pension, Disability and Carers Service, where the complaint relates to administration issues. This could include issues regarding confidentially breaches; however customers raising complaints with ICE that relate specifically to the General Medical Council's Code of Conduct would be referred to the General Medical Council.

The Independent Case Examiner's office does not record complaints relating to Atos Healthcare separately from other complaints arising from Jobcentre Plus and the Pension, Disability and Carers Service.

The Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman will consider investigating complaints referred direct from Members of Parliament. Information about the volume and type of referrals received should therefore be requested directly from the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman's Office.

Pensioners: Livingston

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in Livingston constituency receive *(a)* the basic state pension and *(b)* pension credit. [22073]

Steve Webb: The document "Caseloads for selected benefits by 2010 Parliamentary Constituencies, February 2010" includes figures for pension credit and state pension and is available in the Library or via the following link:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/stats_summary/benefit_new_parlc_table_feb10.xls

The state pension figures are for the total state pension caseload. Around 1% of state pension recipients are not in receipt of the basic state pension, but are receiving additional state pension only or graduated retirement benefit only.

Remploy: Sheffield

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has for the future of Remploy Ltd in Sheffield; and if he will make a statement. [22576]

Maria Miller: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Wrexham (Ian Lucas) on 26 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 195W.

Revenue and Customs: Debt Collection

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of posts to be deleted in HM Revenue and Customs as a result of the implementation of proposals to transfer debt collection services to private sector agencies. [22011]

Mr Gauke: I have been asked to reply.

The additional capacity for HMRC to use debt collection agencies announced in the June Budget will accelerate the collection of lower value tax debts and generate an additional £140 million from debts that might otherwise have been written off in future. This additional capacity does not replace HMRC staff.

Social Security Benefits: Disability

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many families in Ealing, Southall constituency are in receipt of *(a)* incapacity benefit, *(b)* attendance allowance and *(c)* disability living allowance. [21307]

Maria Miller: The information requested is not available by family. Information on the number of people receiving disability living allowance, attendance allowance and incapacity benefit in Ealing Southall constituency is contained in the following table.

Recipients of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, disability living allowance and attendance allowance as at February 2010—Ealing, Southall constituency

	Recipients
Incapacity benefit/ severe disablement allowance	3,670
Disability living allowance (in payment)	4,210
Attendance allowance (in payment)	1,880

Notes:

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10; some additional disclosure control has also been applied.
2. For disability living allowance and attendance allowance the totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and excludes people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example because they are in hospital.
3. A claimant can be in receipt of more than one of these benefits and will therefore be counted for each benefit they receive.
4. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment and support allowance from October 2008.
5. Figures for employment and support allowance are not included.
6. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to his Department's publication Tackling Fraud and Error in the Benefit and Tax Credits Systems, page 20, paragraph 6, on customer segmentation analysis, what proportion of customers are classified as organised criminals. [22014]

Mr Gauke: I have been asked to reply.

The Trust Statement that accompanied HMRC's 2009-10 accounts, published at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/hmrc-accs-0910.pdf

explains how the Department measures the overall level of tax credits error and fraud. Those involved in organised fraud are amongst the 6% categorised as 'rule breakers' in the publication referred to by the hon. Member in her question. HMRC are unable to identify the proportion of customers classified as organised criminals with this segment.

Welfare State: Reform

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 12 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 459W, on the welfare state: reform, what timetable he has set for publication of his Department's Welfare Reform White Paper. [20035]

Chris Grayling: We expect to publish the White Paper in the next few weeks.

Winter Fuel Payments

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households received the winter fuel allowance at each rate in each constituency in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [22381]

Steve Webb: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available for individuals who received each rate of winter fuel payment in each parliamentary constituency is in the document "Winter Fuel Payment amounts by Parliamentary Constituency as at Winter 2009/10." This is available in the Library and on the internet at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=wfp

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many winter fuel allowance payments were made to UK citizens resident in other European countries in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and what the total monetary value was of such payments. [22385]

Steve Webb: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Easington (Grahame M. Morris) on 20 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 768W.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to answer question 18602, on local housing allowance, tabled by the hon. Member for Torbay on 18 October 2010. [22432]

Steve Webb: All ordinary written questions on housing benefit tabled by the hon. Member before 1 November have now been answered.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 9 November 2010

WALES

Departmental Publications

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what assessment she has made of the recommendations relevant to her Department's policy responsibilities contained in the Foresight report on Mental Capital and Wellbeing by the Government Office for Science; if she will ensure that her Department takes steps to promote well-being; if she will ensure that her Department's policy development process takes account of psychological research into subjective well-being; and if she will make a statement. [22910]

Mr David Jones: I welcome the conclusions of the Foresight Project on Mental Capital and Wellbeing and will ensure that my Department acts on these as appropriate.

TRANSPORT

Cycling: Finance

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what cost-benefit ratios his Department uses to assess the merits of funding Cycling England programmes. [20716]

Norman Baker: The original Cycling England programme was proposed by the board and approved by Ministers on the basis of existing research and expertise. Many of the programmes were intended as demonstration projects and provide an evidence base for the potential of local cycle interventions.

Individual programmes are delivered via a variety of partners, with different criteria for selection, and are subject to ongoing evaluation.

Analysis of results of the first phase of funding for the initial six cycling demonstration towns has provided benefit cost ratios in the range 2.6 to 3.5.

Departmental Reorganisation

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons he has decided to implement the majority of the proposals for re-organisation of his Department before June 2011; and when he took that decision. [20353]

Mr Philip Hammond: The reorganisation timetable reflects the judgment of the Secretary of State and senior officials, and best practice in other organisations, that change is managed most effectively over a short period. A provisional decision that reorganisation should be undertaken swiftly was taken in the spring. Formal approval for that approach was conditional on the results of the comprehensive spending review. That formal approval was given by the Department's board on 29 October.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether an equality impact assessment was undertaken before his decision to implement the majority of the proposals for the reorganisation of his Department before June 2011. [20622]

Mr Philip Hammond: Yes. Completed equality impact assessments were presented to the Department board on 29 October.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which organisations he consulted before implementing the majority of the proposals for the reorganisation of his Department before June 2011. [20623]

Mr Philip Hammond: We continue to consult the trade union side and Department for Transport staff. We have discussed our proposals with a large number of other central Government Departments and a number of private sector organisations with experience in this area.

Driving: Licensing

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department takes to inform older drivers of the requirement to renew a driving licence at age 70; how many drivers eligible for renewal of their licence at age 70 did not renew their licence in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [22592]

Mike Penning: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency sends reminder letters 90 days prior to a driver reaching their 70 birthday to advise them how to renew their driving entitlement. Between 30 October 2009 and 29 October 2010, the number of drivers reaching the age of 70 was 499,901. Of these 141,722 drivers did not renew their driving entitlement.

Freight

Steve McCabe: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of arrangements to examine freight arriving at UK ports and airports. [21804]

Mr Philip Hammond: I refer the hon. Member to the oral statement made by the Home Secretary in the House on 1 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 632-33.

The UK Government have temporarily banned all air cargo originating from Yemen and Somalia. I and officials will be meeting senior representatives of airlines, airports and the air cargo industry over the coming weeks to determine future aviation security strategy.

Liquid Petroleum Gas

Sheryll Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will discuss with representatives of the liquid petroleum gas industry the contribution of liquid petroleum gas as a road fuel to meeting the Government's air quality targets. [22344]

Norman Baker: To date, I have not received any invitations from representatives of the liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) industry wishing to discuss air quality issues.

Testing conducted for the Department on recent petrol vehicles converted to run on LPG showed no reduction in air quality emissions when running on LPG, although CO_2 emissions were slightly reduced. Data from other sources show similar results. Representatives of the LPG industry are in touch with the Department's officials and will no doubt keep them informed of any new evidence as it emerges.

Railways: Wiltshire

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for the future of the Kemble to Swindon railway line. [20671]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 1 November 2010]:* The Government recognise that re-doubling the railway between Swindon and Kemble could generate important passenger benefits and improve resilience by providing a diversionary route for the Great Western Main Line to Wales. Unfortunately, the need to address the deficit means that we are not able to commit Government funding to this project at present, but it remains our aspiration to take it forward in the future. However, this is the type of project that will be considered for funding in the next railway control period.

Taxis: Licensing

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to bring forward proposals for a national standardised licensing regime for *(a)* hackney carriages and *(b)* private hire vehicles. [23070]

Norman Baker: We have no plans to amend the legislation to impose standardised licensing policies. We publish Best Practice Guidance to assist licensing authorities in formulating suitable taxi and private hire vehicle licensing policies.

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking to implement obligations under Article 9 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities regarding accessibility in relation to his Department's policy responsibilities. [21125]

Norman Baker: Department for Transport officials are working with officials at the Office for Disability Issues on preparing a report to the UN on what the UK is doing to implement the UN convention on the rights of persons with disabilities. The report, which will be published next year, will set out what the Department is doing to meet its obligations under article 9 of the convention.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Departmental Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each of its Ministers in *(a)* September and *(b)* October 2010. [21780]

Richard Benyon: Three events were hosted during October which all Ministers attended at a cost of £134.

Departmental Pay

Martin Vickers: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many permanent staff in her Department received an annual salary greater than £25,428 in the latest period for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [21174]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 2 November 2010]:* There were 4,870 full-time equivalent permanent members of staff paid an annual salary greater than £25,428 out of a total of 10,061 staff in core-DEFRA and its Executive Agencies—Rural Payments Agency, Veterinary Laboratories Agency, Food and Environment Research Agency, Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science, Animal Health and Veterinary Medicines Directorate—during 2010.

Departmental Public Expenditure

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what her Department's capital expenditure per head was in *(a)* London and *(b)* the North West in each of the last five years; [21455]

(2) how much and what proportion of her Department's capital expenditure was allocated to *(a)* London and *(b)* the North West in each of the last five financial years. [21461]

Richard Benyon: Capital expenditure is not currently recorded by the Department on a regional basis and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Redundancy

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding to meet staff redundancy costs was identified in her Department's settlement letter in respect of the comprehensive spending review. [21532]

Richard Benyon: All pressures on Departments' budgets were taken into account as part of the spending review and settlements were allocated accordingly. The full cost of redundancies will be met from within the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' spending review resource departmental expenditure limit settlement.

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the number of redundancies arising from the spending reductions proposed in the comprehensive spending review in respect of *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies. [21533]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA will make the reduction in headcount through natural wastage and voluntary departures wherever possible, with compulsory redundancies as a last resort. Until we know the numbers who take up voluntary departure, it will not be possible to estimate the number of compulsory redundancies. However, overall, we expect DEFRA and its arm's length bodies to have up to 8,000 fewer staff by 2015, from a total workforce of 30,000 across the network in 2010-11.

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the cost to her Department of staff redundancy in each of the next four years. [21534]

Richard Benyon: The overall cost of exits is estimated to be around £190 million. Until workforce modelling has been completed across the network and the terms of the newly proposed Civil Service Compensation Scheme are approved, this can only be regarded as a planning assumption.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff of *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies have been offered enhanced early retirement packages in each of the last three years. [22024]

Richard Benyon: The following table shows the total number of staff who were offered and accepted enhanced early retirement packages in each of the last three years.

	Core/Agency	*Number Exits*
2010-11	Core	24
	RPA	3
	AH	4
	VMD	0
	VLA	0
	CEFAS	0
	FERA[1]	0
2009-10	Core	6
	RPA	13
	AH	0
	VMD	0
	VLA	0
	CEFAS	1
	FERA[1]	4
2008-09	Core	2
	RPA	8
	AH	0
	VMD	0
	VLA	0
	FERA[1]	1

[1] The Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera) was formed on 1 April 2009. All data prior to this date relate only to the former Central Science Laboratory (CSL).

Dogs: Breeding

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will bring forward amendments to the Code of Practice for the Welfare of Dogs to include references on dog breeding and genetic health and welfare. [22424]

Mr Paice: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 14 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 934W.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with *(a)* the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and *(b)* the British Veterinary Association Animal Welfare Foundation on proposals for a standard puppy contract; and if she will make a statement. [22428]

Mr Paice: The potential value of the puppy contract has been raised with Lord Henley by the President of the British Veterinary Association at a recent meeting. DEFRA will assess the situation once it has been reviewed by the independent Dog Advisory Council as part of its wider programme for bringing forward a strategy to improve the health and welfare of dogs.

Fisheries

Amber Rudd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the likely effects on fishing communities of the proposed requirement on vessels in the under-10 metre fleet to complete a log book. [21682]

Richard Benyon: This requirement will not affect the vast majority of inshore fishermen in the south and south east of England, whose fishing trips are confined to single fishing areas, and no adverse effects on fishing communities is anticipated. It will, however, help to ensure that local inshore fishermen in each of the affected sea areas are not disadvantaged by having catches taken in adjacent sea areas wrongly attributed to their area, thus reducing the amount of quota available for them to fish.

Flood Control: Finance

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much of her Department's capital expenditure was allocated to the Environment Agency for flood defence schemes in each of the last five years; how much she plans to allocate to such schemes in each of the next five years; and if she will make a statement. [22920]

Richard Benyon: Between 2006-07 and 2010-11, the Department allocated the following amounts to the Environment Agency for flood defence schemes:

	Allocation (£ million)
2006-07[1]	216.3
2007-08	210.0
2008-09	313.1

	Allocation (£ million)
2009-10	349.4
2010-11[1]	354.0

[1] Actual spend figure including resource-capital switch (allocation figure unavailable).

DEFRA is currently considering capital allocations for the next four financial years (those covered by the recent spending review) across the DEFRA Network, including the Environment Agency. More information on allocations should be available in January 2011.

Food

Amber Rudd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the prospects for discussion of UK food security as part of the forthcoming negotiations on the future of the common agricultural policy. [21681]

Mr Paice: The Commission will soon publish its Communication which will set the framework for the common agriculture policy (CAP) in the new financial perspective.

DEFRA's UK Food Security Assessment concluded that the UK enjoys high levels of food security. It details that the best guarantor of UK food security is an open trading system with other countries, with farmers at home and overseas being able to respond to market price signals. The current CAP is an impediment to both and we will be seeking reform in the forthcoming negotiations.

Forestry Commission: Land

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many acres of land the Forestry Commission *(a)* owns, *(b)* manages and *(c)* otherwise has responsibility for. [22494]

Mr Paice: The public forest estate is owned by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and placed at the disposal of the Forestry Commissioners under section (3)1 of the Forestry Act 1967. It comprises 18% of total forest area in England; 13% is owned by other public bodies and 69% is in private hands.

As at 31 March 2010 the public forest estate in England comprised 198,298 hectares (490,005 acres) of freehold land and 57,692 hectares (142,560 acres) of leasehold land. In addition the Forestry Commission manages 1,701 hectares (4,203 acres) of land in England under long-term management agreements.

Landfill: Refrigerators

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will take steps to reduce the number of retail refrigerated display cabinets disposed of in landfill sites. [21226]

Mr Prisk: I have been asked to reply.

The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations 2006 already minimise the amount of discarded electrical and electronic equipment going to landfill. The Regulations place obligations on the producers and business end-users of a wide range of waste electrical equipment, including retail refrigerated display cabinets. These include the financing of the separate collection, subsequent treatment, re-use, recovery, recycling and environmentally sound disposal of such equipment when it becomes waste. Treatment and recycling facilities are approved and regulated by the Environment Agency to ensure compliance with strict standards that minimise the environmental impacts of their operations and the maximisation of recycling rates.

National Parks Authorities

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions her Department has had on National Parks becoming responsible for economic development of the areas they cover. [22520]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA is currently conducting a consultation on the governance arrangements for the national parks. Following this I will be considering proposals for changes to the way these areas are looked after, which may include the future responsibilities of the authorities.

Nature Conservation: Crime

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people were *(a)* cautioned, *(b)* proceeded against and *(c)* convicted of an offence under the (i) Protection of Badgers Act 1992, (ii) Deer Act 1991, (iii) Wild Mammals Protection Act 1996 and (iv) Hunting Act 2004 in each police force area between 2004 and 2009. [22851]

Richard Benyon: I have placed the data requested in the Library.

Rural Areas: Liquefied Petroleum Gas

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department has taken to encourage the use of liquid petroleum gas as a road fuel in rural areas. [21721]

Justine Greening: I have been asked to reply.

A reduced rate of duty is applied to liquid petroleum gas for road use in all parts of the country. I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 25 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 149W, to the hon. Member for Glasgow North East (Mr Bain).

Rural Development Agency

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what transitional arrangements she plans to put in place for applicants for funds from the Rural Development Programme for England following the ending of regional development agencies. [21908]

Mr Paice: DEFRA will ensure that delivery arrangements for the Rural Development Programme for England continue to be in place following the abolition of the regional development agencies, based on a stronger national lead by DEFRA for the remainder of the programme period to 2013, and will minimise disruption for potential beneficiaries.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments: Primates

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of overseas companies designated as breeding and supply establishments to supply non-human primates to the UK for the purposes of scientific research that use wild populations of non-human primates for breeding purposes. [22040]

Lynne Featherstone: Of the overseas breeding centres supplying animals to the UK during the past two years we understand that two use wild populations of non-human primates for breeding purposes.

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many companies in Mauritius are designated as breeding and supply establishments to supply non-human primates to the UK for the purposes of scientific research. [22047]

Lynne Featherstone: Of the overseas breeding centres supplying animals to the United Kingdom during the past two years two are located in Mauritius.

Crime: Statistics

Guy Opperman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms she plans to put in place for the collection of crime data for regular beat meetings. [19742]

Nick Herbert: The Government are committed to replacing bureaucratic accountability with democratic accountability. We are introducing Police and Crime Commissioners and we will ensure the public have the information they need to hold their force and Commissioner to account. The coalition agreement includes a commitment to ensuring that crime data are published at a level that allows the public to see what is happening on their streets from January 2011. These data are held locally by all police forces and the Home Office is working to develop an online platform which allows the public to easily access the data in an open and standardised format, alongside street-level crime maps.

Entry Clearances: Diplomatic Service

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans her Department has for the future of the diplomatic domestic visa system. [22418]

Damian Green: We plan to review next year the current immigration rules in relation to persons, including diplomats, who wish to bring individuals from overseas to the UK to work for them in their private household in a domestic capacity.

European Arrest Warrants

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people have been sent *(a)* from the UK to each other EU member state and *(b)* to the UK from each other EU member state under the European Arrest Warrant since its inception; [15105]

(2) how many people sent *(a)* from the UK to each other EU member state and *(b)* to the UK from each other EU member state under the European Arrest Warrant who were subsequently convicted have received a custodial sentence longer than (i) one year, (ii) five years, (iii) 10 years and (iv) 20 years; [15106]

(3) how many people sent *(a)* from the UK to each other EU member state and *(b)* to the UK from each other EU member state under the European Arrest Warrant were subsequently (i) acquitted and (ii) convicted. [15107]

Nick Herbert: The Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (for Scotland) are the designated authorities in the UK responsible for processing European arrest warrants (EAWs). Extraditions under the EAW process are known as 'surrenders'.

The following tables show the total numbers of people *(a)* surrendered from the UK (excluding Scotland) and *(b)* surrendered to the UK (including Scotland) since 2004. It has not been possible to break these data down by member state prior to April 2009 as this would involve a manual examination of all SOCA case records for that period, which would incur disproportionate cost. In April 2009 SOCA introduced a new IT system and the number of surrenders has been broken down by member state for the financial year 2009-10.

It is not possible to answer questions 15106 and 15107. SOCA's involvement in an EAW case ceases at the point of surrender, and SOCA is not informed of the outcome of any subsequent criminal proceedings.

	European arrest warrants
2009-10 (business year)	
Surrenders from the UK	699
Surrenders to the UK	71
2008-09 (business year)	
Surrenders from the UK	516
Surrenders to the UK	88
2007-08 (business year)	
Surrenders from the UK	415
Surrenders to the UK	107
2006-07 (business year)	
Surrenders from the UK	178
Surrenders to the UK	84
2006 January to March	
Surrenders from the UK	25
Surrenders to the UK	15

	European arrest warrants
2005 (calendar year)	
Surrenders from the UK	77
Surrenders to the UK	63
2004 (calendar year)	
Surrenders from the UK	24
Surrenders to the UK	19

EAW surrenders from the UK, 2009-10

	Totals
Austria	1
Belgium	6
Bulgaria	1
Cyprus	4
Czech republic	34
Denmark	0
Estonia	7
Finland	1
France	19
Germany	21
Greece	1
Hungary	8
Ireland	19
Italy	10
Latvia	15
Lithuania	55
Luxembourg	1
Malta	2
The Netherlands	18
Poland	425
Portugal	3
Romania	18
Slovakia	7
Slovenia	1
Spain	16
Sweden	6
	699

	By number
Poland	425
Lithuania	55
Czech republic	34
Germany	21
France	19
Ireland	19
The Netherlands	18
Romania	18
Spain	16
Latvia	15
Italy	10
Hungary	8
Estonia	7
Slovakia	7
Belgium	6
Sweden	6
Cyprus	4
Portugal	3
Malta	2
Austria	1
Bulgaria	1
Finland	1
Greece	1
Luxembourg	1
Slovenia	1
Denmark	0
	699

EAW surrenders to the UK, 2009-10

	Totals
Cyprus	2
France	6
Germany	1
Greece	2
Ireland	11
Italy	1
Malta	1
The Netherlands	17
Poland	5
Portugal	2
Romania	2
Spain	20
Sweden	1
	71

	By number
Spain	20
The Netherlands	17
Ireland	11
France	6
Poland	5
Cyprus	2
Greece	2
Portugal	2
Romania	2
Germany	1
Italy	1
Malta	1
Sweden	1
	71

European Investigation Order

Mr Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the statement of 27 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 881, on the European Investigation Order, if she will place in the Library a copy of each item of correspondence on the European Investigation Order between her Department and *(a)* the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and *(b)* each police force which is a member of ACPO. [19186]

Nick Herbert: I have placed the following in the House of Commons Library:

correspondence received by the Home Office from the Association of Chief Police Officers;

an e-mail sent by the Home Office which requested the views of International Liaison Officers on the European Investigation Order; and

a summary table of e-mail correspondence received in response to this.

Identity and Passport Service: Newport (Gwent)

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether she has assessed the merits of short-time working for all staff at the Newport Passport Office as an alternative to the proposed reduction in the number of jobs at that office; [22287]

(2) whether the impact assessment for the closure of the Newport Passport Office will take into account the levels of unemployment in neighbouring areas from which the staff at the passport office are drawn; and if she will make a statement. [22288]

Damian Green: The offer of a shorter working week for staff would not absorb the excess capacity, in terms of both people and the physical estate, that exists within the Identity and Passport Service (IPS). In order for IPS to continue to deliver value for money, the proposed restructuring of the passport application processing centres requires that savings are achieved through the closure of the centre at Newport and the corresponding reductions in staff.

The Impact Assessment will make use of relevant data from the StatsWales website and the Longitudinal Labour Force Survey and the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings compiled by the Office of National Statistics. Data will be applied on a regional basis.

Illegal Immigrants: Deportation

Mr Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal immigrants have been removed in each month since May 2010. [22393]

Damian Green: The following table shows the number of removals and voluntary departures for May and June 2010. Data for July 2010 to September 2010 will be available from 25 November 2010 when data for the third quarter of 2010 are published.

The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of persons removed or departed voluntarily from the UK on a quarterly and annual basis, which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Removals and voluntary departures[1, 2]

Number of departures[3]

	Enforced removals and voluntary departures					
	Enforced removals and notified voluntary departures[4]	*Assisted voluntary returns*[5]	*Other voluntary departures*[6]	*Total*	*Non-asylum cases refused entry at port and subsequently removed*[7]	*Grand total*
May	1,730	360	1,440	3,530	1,655	5,180
June	1,705	395	1,105	3,200	1,505	4,710

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest five and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.

[2] Provisional figures. Figures will under record due to data cleansing and data matching exercises that take place after the extracts are taken.

[3] Removals and voluntary departures recorded on the system as at the dates on which the data extracts were taken.

[4] Includes persons leaving under facilitated return schemes.

[5] Persons leaving under assisted voluntary return programmes run by the international organisation for migration. May include some on-entry cases and some cases where enforcement action has been initiated.

[6] Persons who it has been established left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.

[7] Includes removals performed by immigration officers at ports using enforcement powers and cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls.

Immigration Controls

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms are in place to ensure that the immigration cap does not adversely affect the capacity of companies to recruit staff from outside the EU with skills not available from the UK workforce; and if she will make a statement. [22227]

Damian Green: Under the current interim limit, we are monitoring each sponsoring employer's allocations closely and reviewing them as appropriate. Employers can request to sponsor additional migrant workers above their allocation. On 1 November, the UK Border Agency published refined criteria for handling these requests, to give employers greater certainty.

Regarding the full limit that will be introduced from next year, the Government carried out a full public consultation over the summer and are assessing the responses.

Immigration Controls: English Language

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what account her Department takes of the proficiency in English of the *(a)* spouses and *(b)* dependants of applicants for (i) British citizenship, (ii) leave to remain and (iii) asylum in determining the outcome of such applications. [22565]

Damian Green *[holding answer 8 November 2010]*: Those applying for naturalisation as a British citizen are expected to demonstrate that they have sufficient knowledge of English and of life in the United Kingdom. Those applying for citizenship through registration routes, which include children under 18, do not have to meet this requirement.

Those applying for settlement also need to demonstrate the knowledge of life requirement unless they are applying under a category for which this is not required.

A person can show that he or she meets this requirement by either passing a citizenship test, or attending a course which teaches English for Speakers of other Languages using citizenship-based materials. The proficiency in English of a person's spouse and dependents are not taken into account when considering an application, although if they wish to apply for citizenship in their own right they will need to demonstrate that they meet this requirement.

From 29 November 2010 we will require those applying to come to or stay in the UK as the spouse or partner of a British citizen or person settled here to meet an English language requirement.

For citizenship, settlement, and applying for entry as a spouse or partner there are exemptions to the language requirement, such as where the person has a mental or physical condition which would make it unreasonable to expect them to learn English or is aged 65 or over.

For spouses and dependants applying for leave to remain under the points based system routes, there is no English language requirement.

Similarly there is no English language requirement for spouses or dependants of refugees who want to join them in the UK.

Mental Health

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the recommendations relevant to her Department's policy responsibilities contained in the Foresight Report on Mental Capital and Wellbeing by the Government Office for Science; if she will ensure that her Department takes steps to promote wellbeing; if she will ensure that her Department's policy development process takes account of psychological research into subjective wellbeing; and if she will make a statement. [22202]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 8 November 2010]*: Officials in the Home Office reviewed the report at the time of its publication in 2008 and noted that poor mental capacity or well-being could have serious ramifications for criminal behaviour, although causal linkages are not necessarily established. However, many of the solutions lie outside the Home Office remit and we will continue to work with other Departments in this area.

When developing policy we consider psychological research. For example in considering drug policy, the mental health of substance misusers, in particular young people, is particularly relevant. We seek expert advice from the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs to inform our policy development of the latest psychological and mental health research and we include the impact upon victims when estimating the costs of crime and of terrorist incidents. These estimates are used within the Department and more widely as inputs into policy appraisal and evaluation (for instance, in impact assessments for new policy proposals and in business cases for procurement projects).

Earlier this year the Home Office appointed a psychologist, nominated by the British Psychological Society, to its Science Advisory Committee to help ensure that research in psychology is considered as it develops its science and research programmes.

Police

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what estimate she made of the number and proportion of police officers aged *(a)* 18 to 21, *(b)* 22 to 25, *(c)* 26 to 29, *(d)* 30 to 39, *(e)* 40 to 49, *(f)* 50 to 55, *(g)* 56 to 60 and *(h)* over 60 years in the latest period for which figures are available; [20017]

(2) what the average age was of *(a)* male and (b) female police officers (i) nationally and (ii) in each constabulary who retired in the latest period for which figures are available; [20018]

(3) what the average age was of *(a)* male and *(b)* female police officers who joined the police force (i) nationally and (ii) in each constabulary in the latest period for which figures are available; [20019]

(4) what the average age was of police officers who joined the police force *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in each constabulary in the latest period for which figures are available; [20020]

(5) what the average age was of police officers *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in each constabulary who retired in the latest period for which figures are available. [20021]

Nick Herbert: The available data are provided in the tables. The latest available period is the financial year 2009-10. Figures are collected centrally in the following age categories: 25 and under, 26 to 40, 41 to 55 and over 55.

Figures are not collected centrally on average age or by gender. Figures are also not collected centrally on age of joiners or on age of officers who retired.

Police officer strength by force and age group, March 2010[1,2,3]

	25 and under		26 to 40		41 to 55	
	Number	Proportion (%)	Number	Proportion (%)	Number	Proportion (%)
Avon and Somerset	113	3	1,720	51	1,519	45
Bedfordshire	108	9	662	52	480	38
Cambridgeshire	121	8	763	51	597	40
Cheshire	93	4	1,199	55	880	40
Cleveland	91	5	925	53	716	41
Cumbria	65	5	574	45	615	49
Derbyshire	129	6	1,029	49	936	44
Devon and Cornwall	94	3	1,737	48	1,770	49
Dorset	42	3	824	54	651	43
Durham	31	2	770	50	727	47
Dyfed-Powys	64	5	575	47	572	47
Essex	519	14	1,773	48	1,345	37
Gloucestershire	64	5	689	51	581	43
Greater Manchester	509	6	4,270	52	3,408	41
Gwent	52	4	787	54	618	42
Hampshire	429	3	2,088	55	1,586	41

Police officer strength by force and age group, March 2010[1,2,3]

	25 and under		*26 to 40*		*41 to 55*	
	Number	*Proportion (%)*	*Number*	*Proportion (%)*	*Number*	*Proportion (%)*
Hertfordshire	194	9	1,226	56	740	34
Humberside	88	4	980	47	1,015	48
Kent	339	9	2,089	54	1,397	36
Lancashire	220	6	1,938	52	1,534	41
Leicestershire	141	6	1,220	52	972	41
Lincolnshire	83	7	562	46	565	46
London, City of	36	4	389	45	419	49
Merseyside	392	9	2,118	46	2,008	44
Metropolitan Police	2,263	7	17,528	52	13,623	40
Norfolk	113	7	856	50	720	42
Northamptonshire	101	7	692	50	574	42
Northumbria	215	5	2,119	50	1,885	45
North Wales	70	4	768	48	763	47
North Yorkshire	53	4	737	49	712	47
Nottinghamshire	143	6	1,265	52	1,023	42
South Wales	101	3	1,692	53	1,376	43
South Yorkshire	80	3	1,476	49	1,420	47
Staffordshire	57	3	1,137	52	991	45
Suffolk	54	4	652	51	562	44
Surrey	160	8	1,049	54	696	36
Sussex	298	9	1,793	55	1,171	36
Thames Valley	426	9	2,363	52	1,689	37
Warwickshire	32	3	489	50	456	46
West Mercia	111	5	1,165	48	1,126	46
West Midlands	686	8	4,883	56	3,135	36
West Yorkshire	365	6	3,114	53	2,337	40
Wiltshire	43	4	537	45	611	51
Total	9,088	6	75,222	52	60,521	41

	Over 55		*Total*
	Number	*Proportion (%)*	*Headcount Total*
Avon and Somerset	25	1	3,377
Bedfordshire	15	1	1,265
Cambridgeshire	12	1	1,493
Cheshire	13	1	2,185
Cleveland	10	1	1,742
Cumbria	10	1	1,264
Derbyshire	16	1	2,110
Devon and Cornwall	31	1	3,632
Dorset	11	1	1,528
Durham	4	0	1,532
Dyfed-Powys	4	0	1,215
Essex	37	1	3,674
Gloucestershire	8	1	1,342
Greater Manchester	29	0	8,216
Gwent	9	1	1,466
Hampshire	27	1	3,830
Hertfordshire	17	1	2,177
Humberside	23	1	2,106
Kent	37	1	3,862
Lancashire	7	0	3,699
Leicestershire	18	1	2,351
Lincolnshire	8	1	1,218
London, City of	19	2	863
Merseyside	42	1	4,560
Metropolitan Police	406	1	33,820
Norfolk	11	1	1,700
Northamptonshire	10	1	1,377
Northumbria	12	0	4,231
North Wales	8	0	1,609
North Yorkshire	5	0	1,507
Nottinghamshire	20	1	2,451
South Wales	20	1	3,189

	Over 55		Total
	Number	Proportion (%)	Headcount Total
South Yorkshire	17	1	2,993
Staffordshire	18	1	2,203
Suffolk	9	1	1,277
Surrey	23	1	1,928
Sussex	23	1	3,285
Thames Valley	38	1	4,516
Warwickshire	8	1	985
West Mercia	22	1	2,424
West Midlands	61	1	8,765
West Yorkshire	40	1	5,856
Wiltshire	14	1	1,205
Total	1,197	1	146,028

[1] Figures are provisional and have not been verified by forces.
[2] Figures are on a headcount basis. Force totals will therefore not match published figures, which are on a full-time equivalent basis.
[3] Percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole number and therefore they may not appear to sum to 100%.

Police: Unidentified Bodies

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many unidentified bodies were held by police forces in England and Wales on the most recent date for which figures are available. [16338]

Nick Herbert: On 21 September 2010, the National Policing Improvement Agency's (NPIA) Missing Persons Bureau database Hermes held 847 open unidentified cases that are being investigated by English and Welsh police forces. This includes 636 unidentified body cases, 68 cases where the remains of bodies were found, or body parts were found, 49 cases where the persons were found alive but could not be identified, and 94 cases where articles are found indicating a disappearance, for example, tents, bicycles, and articles of clothing.

These figures reflect data held centrally on that date. In accordance with the code of practice on the collection of missing persons data, police forces are required to notify unidentified people, bodies and body parts to the bureau within 48 hours. Consequently bodies which are identified within 48 hours may not be reported to the bureau.

UK Border Agency: Airlines

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which airlines have declined to carry passengers being deported from the UK by the UK Border Agency. [22208]

Damian Green *[holding answer 8 November 2010]*: Airlines have a legal obligation to carry passengers being removed from the UK under the 1971 Immigration Act. This includes cases where the airline has been identified as the inbound carrier and cases where removal is to be carried out at public expense.

Historically, almost all airlines will have refused to carry an individual on the basis of highly disruptive behaviour and/or violence prior to take off. The captain of the aircraft has authority to take that decision under the Tokyo Convention. It is not possible therefore to provide an exhaustive list given the volume of enforced removals effected by UK Border Agency (UKBA) (19,570 during 2009). In cases where an individual is offloaded, UKBA will work with the airline to rearrange the removal, including looking at alternative carriers, additional escorts, or the use of charters.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what consideration his Department has given to changing the rear wheels of the Wolfhound vehicle to a half-track for the purposes of increasing performance during the winter in Afghanistan. [22238]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence is continually evaluating the performance of all vehicle fleets. There currently is no requirement to adapt the Wolfhound's capability by designing a half-track variant which would not offer a performance advantage over the range of vehicles currently deployed on operations in Afghanistan.

Army: Northern Ireland

Mr Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what plans he has to transfer the Brigade Headquarters of the 19th Light Brigade from Thiepval Barracks, Lisburn, to Great Britain; and if he will make a statement; [22826]

(2) what plans he has to *(a)* withdraw soldiers from Ballykinler Army base and *(b)* relocate them to Great Britain; and what plans he has for the future role of the base. [22827]

Nick Harvey: As announced by the Prime Minister on 19 October 2010 as part of the strategic defence and security review the Army will undergo a major restructuring. The transformation over the next 10 years to Future Force 2020 will provide five self-supporting multi-role brigades and one specialist brigade, reducing by one the number of deployable brigades.

Detailed work is now under way to consider how this will be implemented. All areas of the Army and its estate requirements are being scrutinised, and it is therefore too early to say what the outcome will be for specific units, bases and individuals.

Atomic Weapons Establishment

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many complete Chevaline warheads were manufactured at the Atomic Weapons Establishment; and what the maximum size was of the total stockpile of complete Chevaline warheads. [20128]

Dr Fox: We have no plans to publish historical information on the number of Chevaline nuclear warheads in the UK stockpile.

Chinook Helicopters

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of procuring the 12 new Chinook helicopters referred to in the strategic defence and security review. [20022]

Peter Luff: The cost of the 12 new Chinook helicopters will be determined at the project's main gate, the timing of which is subject to the ongoing planning round.

Defence Support Group: Redundancy

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 28 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 14WS, on staff reductions, by how many he expects the staff complement at each location to be reduced by 2013. [22296]

Peter Luff: Work is currently in hand to identify the number of staff reductions required at those Defence Support Group sites likely to be affected by the announcement. I will write to the hon. Member when this work is concluded.

Defence: Communication

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what steps he plans to take to reduce his Department's expenditure on media and communications; [19648]

(2) whether the steps he intends to take to reduce his Department's expenditure on media and communications will include redundancies. [19647]

Dr Fox: We are taking a number of steps to further reduce expenditure on Defence media and communications. These include reducing the amount we spend on marketing and advertising as part of a Government-wide freeze, merging some functions, reducing the number of websites and internal publications, and deleting posts dealing with lower priority work.

Details of the reductions in Defence manpower set out in the Strategic Defence and Security Review White Paper, will be developed as part of the wider departmental implementation of SDSR and the work of the Defence Reform Unit.

The scale of post reductions across the Ministry of Defence will require redundancy or early release schemes for both military and civilian personnel. It is not possible at this stage to say whether it will be necessary to include media and communications personnel within those schemes.

Defence: Procurement

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the likely effect of reductions in his Department's budget on *(a)* Rolls-Royce and *(b)* other companies and their suppliers. [22487]

Peter Luff: The industrial implications of the key strategic defence and security review choices were given careful consideration. We have not made a specific assessment of the impact of the reduction in the Department's budget on Rolls-Royce or any other individual companies.

As part of the SDSR implementation process, we are now engaging in an extensive programme of commercial negotiations, some of which will lead to the cancellation of contracts. This work will focus on the areas where there have been the most significant changes in the SDSR, but it is expected to involve all of the Ministry of Defence's key suppliers.

European Strike Fighter

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* military personnel are assigned to the procurement of the Eurofighter Typhoon programme. [22580]

Peter Luff: As at 4 November 2010, the Defence Equipment and Support (DE and S) Typhoon Team has the following numbers of civil servants and military personnel assigned to management of the procurement and through-life support of the Eurofighter Typhoon.

	Number of personnel
Civilian	160
Military	86
Total	246

Guided Weapons

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of adjustments to the D5 Missile extension programme consequent on the proposed reduction in the number of missiles. [19728]

Dr Fox: An assessment is under way of the financial implications for the D5 missile extension programme arising from the Strategic Defence and Security Review decisions. It is, therefore, too early to provide a meaningful estimate.

Nuclear Weapons: Expenditure

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence under which budgetary headings he expects the proposed reduction in expenditure on the nuclear weapons programme to be made. [19578]

Dr Fox: The £750 million referred to in the Strategic Defence and Security Review is split between submarine platform costs and the nuclear weapons programme and is planned to occur across the first four financial years of the spending review period, financial years 2011-12 to 2015-16.

Service Personnel: Reductions

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what discussions he has had with the First Sea Lord on *(a)* meeting current commitments and *(b)* the planned reduction in the number of Royal Navy personnel; [19540]

(2) what discussions he has had with Chief of the General Staff on *(a)* meeting current commitments and *(b)* the planned reduction in the number of Army personnel; [19541]

(3) what discussions he has had with the Chief of the Air Staff on *(a)* meeting current commitments and *(b)* the planned reduction in the number of Royal Air Force personnel; [19542]

Dr Fox: The full range of issues associated with the Strategic Defence and Security Review were discussed in the Defence Strategy Group, which included all five Chiefs, including the First Sea Lord, the Chief of the General Staff and the Chief of the Air Staff.

Strategic Defence and Security Review

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions his Department has had with *(a)* members of the armed forces, *(b)* representatives of the defence manufacturing industry, *(c)* academic institutions and *(d)* other organisations during the Strategic Defence and Security Review. [19580]

Dr Fox: I invited contributions to the Strategic Defence and Security Review in July 2010. The Ministry of Defence received over 6,000 responses from MPs, members of the armed forces, public servants within and beyond defence, industry, academics and the public.

The MOD also engaged a wide variety of external organisations during the SDSR, including NATO, principal UK and international think tanks and academic institutes, NGOs, industry organisations and service veterans' and families' organisations.

Trident Submarines

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of extending the life of the current fleet of Vanguard submarines to 2028. [19733]

Dr Fox: Detailed costings are at an early stage, but to accommodate the deferral of the successor submarine's in-service date from 2024 to 2028, we expect to spend around an additional £1.2 billion in maintaining the Vanguard Class.

The overall impact of the changes identified by the value for money study and reported in the strategic defence and security review will reduce costs by £3.2 billion over the next 10 years.

Warships

Sheryll Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will assess the likely effects of the proposed reduction of the number of hulls in the surface fleet on the Royal Navy's capacity to discharge current commitments. [22199]

Nick Harvey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer the Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology (Peter Luff) gave on 26 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 204W, to the hon. Member for Glenrothes (Lindsay Roy).

JUSTICE

Driving Offences

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of prosecutions brought in respect of the death of a pedestrian in an accident involving a *(a)* bicycle and *(b)* motor vehicle resulted in a conviction in each of the last five years. [23022]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings Database holds information on defendants proceeded against, found guilty and sentenced for criminal offences in England and Wales. Data reported centrally do not include the circumstances of each case. For example statistical information available on motoring offences do not identify if the victim was a pedestrian or, other than where specified in the statute, the type of vehicle involved in the offence.

Arrest Warrants

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many arrest warrant applications were made to district judges by private individuals in the period 1 January 1995 to 1 January 2010 in respect of an offence under *(a)* section 1 of the Aviation and Maritime Security Act 1990 (endangering safety at aerodrome), *(b)* sections 9 to 14 of that Act (hijacking of ships etc) and *(c)* sections 1 to 3 of the United Nations Personnel Act 1997; and how many such applications were (i) refused and (ii) granted in respect of suspects of each nationality; [22281]

(2) how many arrest warrant applications were made to district judges by private individuals in the period 1 January 1995 to 1 January 2010 in respect of an offence under *(a)* section 1, 2 or 6 of the Aviation Security Act 1982 (hijacking), *(b)* sections 1 to 2A of the Nuclear Material (Offences) Act 1983 (offences relating to nuclear material) and *(c)* section 134 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 (torture); and how many such applications were (i) refused and (ii) granted in respect of suspects of each nationality; [22282]

(3) how many arrest warrant applications were made to District Judges by private individuals in the period 1 January 1995 to 1 January 2010 in respect of *(a)* offences relating to piracy or an offence under section 2 of the Piracy Act 1837 (piracy where murder is attempted), *(b)* an offence under section 1 of the Geneva Conventions Act 1957 (grave breaches of Geneva conventions) and *(c)* an offence under section 1 of Taking Hostages Act 1982 (hostage-taking); and how many such warrants were (i) refused and (ii) granted in respect of suspects of each nationality. [22286]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The information sought is not recorded. However, such applications are generally heard at the City of Westminster magistrates court, and staff there are aware of ten applications for arrest warrants in respect of universal jurisdiction offences in the last ten years. It is public knowledge that two applications were granted. Six of the applications related to allegations of grave breaches of the Geneva conventions under the 1957 Act, and four to allegations of torture under the 1988 Act.

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) which *(a)* individuals, *(b)* organisations and *(c)* foreign Governments were invited to comment on his Department's note of 20 March 2010 on arrest warrants-universal jurisdiction; [22391]

(2) what *(a)* individuals, *(b)* organisations and *(c)* foreign Governments responded to his Department's note of 20 March 2010, on arrest warrants-universal jurisdiction; and whether he plans to publish those responses. [22406]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The following organisations and individuals were invited to comment on the note of March 2010:

the Lord Chief Justice
the Senior Presiding Judge
the Senior District Judge (Chief Magistrate)
the Justices' Clerks' Society
the Criminal Bar Association
the Law Society
Liberty
JUSTICE
Amnesty International
the District Bench (Magistrates Courts) Legal Committee
the Jewish Leadership Council.

Comments were received from:

the Justices' Clerks' Society
the Criminal Bar Association
Liberty
JUSTICE
the Jewish Leadership Council
Hickman and Rose, Solicitors
the Board of Deputies of British Jews
Labour Friends of Israel
Middle East Monitor
the Palestinian Forum of Britain.

The comments have not been published but have been made available on request.

No foreign Governments were invited to comment and none did so.

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what meetings he has had with representatives of foreign Governments on universal jurisdiction and arrest warrants since 20 March 2010. [22407]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: I have had no such meetings.

Chief Coroner

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent representations he has received on public opinion on his proposals to close the Office of the Chief Coroner; and if he will make a statement. [22597]

Mr Djanogly: Following my statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 37-38WS, I met with organisations and charities that have an interest in the coroners system to discuss the proposals for reform and the abolition of the Office of Chief Coroner. I am committed to continue working with them in taking forward our proposals to improve the system for the benefit of bereaved people. I have written to the hon. Lady in response to her letter to me of 21 October 2010 with further detail on our proposed reforms to the service. This was one of a number of letters I have received on this matter.

Community Orders

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 1 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 516-20W, on sentencing, what estimate he has made of the average time between a community sentence being issued for an offence of each type and the recipient starting their designated programme of action. [22998]

Mr Blunt: Waiting times for designated programmes are managed locally by each probation trust. This information is not collated centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by obtaining information held on offender files or on local data systems, validating it, and then collating it in a common format in order to provide a response.

Criminal Injuries Compensation

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether he plans to bring forward proposals to change the categories of people eligible for compensation under the Criminal Injuries Compensation scheme; [22387]

(2) whether he plans to change the monetary value of awards made under the Criminal Injuries Compensation scheme; [22388]

(3) whether the Government have commissioned research into options for the reform of the Criminal Injuries Compensation scheme; [22389]

(4) what plans he has for the future funding of the Criminal Injuries Compensation scheme in each of the next four years. [22398]

Mr Blunt: The Criminal Injuries Compensation scheme is currently subject to review. No decisions have been made.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) in respect of how many cases under consideration by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority the claimant had not been notified of a resolution on the latest date for which figures are available; and how many of those cases had been filed more than *(a)* six, *(b)* 12, *(c)* 18 and *(d)* 24 months prior to that date; [22390]

(2) how many compensation awards to victims of crime are outstanding; and how many such people have been waiting for such awards for more than *(a)* three months, *(b)* six months, *(c)* nine months and *(d)* one year. [22400]

Mr Blunt: The information requested is set out in the following table:

	Number
Outstanding cases as at 30 Sept 2010	49,667
Cases less than six months	24,320

	Number
Greater than six but less than 12 months	9,265
Greater than 12 but less than 18 months	6,817
Greater than 18 but less than 24 months	2,448
Greater than 24 months	6,817

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the monetary value is of outstanding compensation payments to victims of crime. [22399]

Mr Blunt: The monetary value of outstanding compensation payments to victims of crime is £598.6 million.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many award decisions made by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority in the last 12 months have been referred to the Tribunals Service (Criminal Injuries Compensation); and how many such tribunals have *(a)* overturned and *(b)* amended such an award decision. [22401]

Mr Blunt: The information requested is set out in the following table and relates to tariff cases which have been referred to the Tribunals Service.

	Number
Cases appealed in last 12 months	3,192
Heard	2,909
Overturned	1,341
Amended	324

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he made of the mean average compensation payment paid by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority in each year since its inception. [22402]

Mr Blunt: The information requested is set out in the following table.

Mean cases values (including all cases resulting in a nil payment) FY End

	£
1997	1,411
1998	1,402
1999	1,477
2000	1,494
2001	1,606
2002	1,719
2003	1,975
2004	2,203
2005	2,409
2006	2,537
2007	2,757
2008	2,972
2009	3,637

Departmental Redundancy

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of redundancies arising from the spending reductions proposed in the comprehensive spending review in respect of *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies and *(c)* other public bodies which are dependent on his Department for funding. [21542]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: My Department is developing firm plans to deliver its priorities within the funding baselines announced in the spending review. We will be consulting widely on proposals for change but as yet no internal budgets have been set.

Preliminary estimates suggest that the Department will lose around 14,000-15,000 posts, including a significant reduction in our headquarters and administrative areas. Where possible, staff reduction will be through natural turnover and voluntary redundancy, avoiding compulsory redundancies if possible.

My Department's response to the spending review marks the beginning of a programme of radical change which will fundamentally reform the way justice is provided by 2015. I am confident that the process will lead to a transformed Ministry of Justice which is efficient, transparent, and affordable.

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of staff redundancy in each of the next four years. [21543]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: My Department is developing firm plans to deliver its priorities within the funding baselines announced in the spending review. We will be consulting widely on proposals for change but as yet no internal budgets have been set. We are therefore currently unable to provide estimates of the costs of staff redundancy for the years in question.

Where possible, staff reduction will be through natural turnover and voluntary redundancy, avoiding compulsory redundancies if possible.

Employment Tribunals Service

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 27 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 350-1W, on the Employment Tribunals Service, how much was paid out in compensation in each category in each such year. [22261]

Mr Djanogly: Compensation awards are recorded by the Tribunals Service for the discrimination and unfair dismissal jurisdictions. For other types of claims any award by the Employment Tribunal will be a statutory entitlement, such as a redundancy payment or unpaid paid wages, rather than an award of compensation. Table 1 shows the compensation awards of which the Tribunal is aware for the financial years 2007-08 to 2009-10.

Further, statistical information published annually by the Tribunals Service includes a breakdown of the maximum awards, median awards and average awards in each type of case where such data are recorded centrally. To set the information in Table 1 in context, Table 2 shows the median awards made in each jurisdiction, in each of the three relevant financial years. In 2009-10, the median award across all jurisdictions for which the Tribunals Service collates data was £5,056.

Table 1: Total compensation awarded in discrimination and unfair dismissal claims in financial years 2007-08 to 2009-10

			£
	Financial year		
Jurisdiction	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Unfair Dismissal	20,564,500	19,819,100	26,319,300

Table 1: Total compensation awarded in discrimination and unfair dismissal claims in financial years 2007-08 to 2009-10

£

	Financial year		
Jurisdiction	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Race Discrimination	946,800	2,183,900	1,263,700
Sex Discrimination	1,700,700	1,907,300	2,924,900
Disability Discrimination	1,796,100	2,206,000	3,802,300
Religious Belief Discrimination	6,400	31,800	34,200
Sexual Orientation Discrimination	60,600	94,700	305,800
Age Discrimination	73,300	186,200	306,100
Total	25,148,500	26,429,100	34,956,200

Notes:

1. The compensation figures are those of which the Tribunal is aware. The Tribunals keeps records on compensation awarded for the discrimination and Unfair dismissal jurisdictions.
2. All judgments are held in the public registry in Bury St Edmunds or Glasgow.
3. All figures are independently rounded and thus may not add to totals. The following conventions have been used:

Values from 100 to 999 are rounded to nearest 10;
Values of 1,000 and over are rounded to the nearest 100.

Source:
ET Annual Reports 2007-08 to 2009-10

Table 2: Median compensation awarded in discrimination and unfair dismissal claim in financial years 2007-08 to 2009-10

£

	Financial year		
Jurisdiction	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Unfair Dismissal	4,000	4,269	4,903
Race Discrimination	8,120	5,172	5,392
Sex Discrimination	5,200	7,000	6,275
Disability Discrimination	8,363	7,226	8,553
Religious Belief Discrimination	[1]—	4,291	5,000
Sexual Orientation Discrimination	2,103	15,351	5,000
Age Discrimination	1,526	3,000	5,868

[1] Not recorded.

Notes:

1. Compensation awarded is that of which the tribunal is aware and entered onto IT systems. For awards in cases of Discrimination there is no statutory cap.
2. The Tribunals keeps records on compensation awarded for the discrimination and Unfair dismissal jurisdictions.
3. All judgments are held in the public registry in Bury St Edmunds or Glasgow.
4. Religious Belief Discrimination: there were only two awards recorded centrally in FY 2007-08; therefore, the average and median values are the same, £3,203.

Source:
ET Annual Reports 2007-08 to 2009-10

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 27 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 350-1W, on the Employment Tribunals Service, whether his Department holds information on the *(a)* legal costs incurred by claimants whose claims were (i) upheld and (ii) dismissed and *(b)* the proportion of such costs which were paid by the employer in each case in each such year. [22262]

Mr Djanogly: Information in relation to legal costs incurred by claimants and the proportion of such costs which were paid by the employer is not held by the Tribunals Service.

In March the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills published a report in March, the 'Survey of Employment Tribunal Applications', details of which can be found at the following link:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/employment-matters/docs/10-756-findings-from-seta-2008

This includes some data on legal costs for both respondents and claimants.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 27 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 350-51W, on the Employment Tribunals Service, what estimate has been made of the number of complaints in each category classified as vexatious that were dismissed. [22263]

Mr Djanogly: Information in relation to the number of complaints that were classified as vexatious and were dismissed by the Employment Tribunal is not collated and held centrally by the Tribunals Service. The information can be provided only at a disproportionate cost by manually checking individual case files and records.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 27 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 350-1W, on the Employment Tribunals Service, what the average length of time was of a hearing in each category. [22264]

Mr Djanogly: The following table gives the overall average time taken, in minutes, for a hearing at an employment tribunal, and a jurisdictional average. This information is management information and is used for internal purposes only; it has not been validated and relies on manual data input.

Average hearing times, in minutes, for claims at an employment tribunal 2007-08 to 2009-10

Minutes

	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
All claims			
Average length of hearing	246	250	224
By jurisdiction			
Unfair dismissal	276	275	251
Unauthorised deduction from wages (formerly Wages Act)	197	193	172
Breach of contract	217	208	187
Sex discrimination	266	285	284
Working time directive	204	193	173
Redundancy pay	130	120	110
Disability discrimination	255	264	232
Redundancy—failure to inform and consult	109	154	178
Equal pay	189	242	283
Race discrimination	390	438	368
Written statement of terms and conditions	202	205	195
Written statement of reasons for dismissal	226	291	224
Written pay statement	175	172	164
Transfer of an undertaking—failure to inform and consult	246	214	219
Suffer a detriment/unfair dismissal—pregnancy	250	227	235
Part time workers regulations	314	248	188
National minimum wage	187	231	254
Discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief	422	424	370

Average hearing times, in minutes, for claims at an employment tribunal 2007-08 to 2009-10

			Minutes
	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation	338	276	258
Age discrimination	212	260	237
Others = All other jurisdictions combined	352	383	326

Foreign Nationals: Bereavement

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what budget his Department has allocated for helping foreign nationals bereaved by murder and manslaughter while in the UK in 2010-11. [22899]

Mr Blunt: Lead responsibility for ensuring provision of support services and assistance to victims of crime rests with the Ministry of Justice.

In 2009-10 the Ministry of Justice provided funding of £38.2 million to Victim Support to support their work across England and Wales. Victim Support provides assistance to victims of crime in England and Wales, regardless of their nationality. An additional £250,000 was provided to specialist organisations providing support to relatives bereaved by murder and manslaughter from the Victims Fund and £140,000 to the organisation Support after Murder and Manslaughter.

For 2010-11 the Ministry of Justice has allocated £45 million for Victim Support, £140,000 for Support After Murder and Manslaughter and £270,474 for specialist organisations supporting bereaved relatives via the Victims Fund.

Grandparents

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to bring forward proposals to extend the rights of grandparents to have access to their grandchildren following a divorce or separation. [22222]

Mr Djanogly: The Family Justice Review, which is currently under way, is considering how best to promote further contact rights for non-resident parents and grandparents following the breakdown of a relationship, as well as the wider issues around the family justice system. The Review Panel, which is independently chaired, is due to issue an interim report in March 2011 and a final report in the autumn of 2011, following a full, national consultation.

HM Courts Service: Wales

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding he allocated to the Court Service in North Wales in 2009-10; and how much such funding he plans to allocate in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12. [22258]

Mr Djanogly: Her Majesty's Courts Service (HMCS) is responsible for administration of courts in England and Wales. HMCS allocates financial resource to Wales and the six regions of England; however some costs for providing court services in Wales such as payment of rent and rates are met nationally. During 2009-10 the funding allocated to North Wales by HMCS Wales was £8,039,170 which included staff and judicial salary payments, estates maintenance costs, including security, cleaning, utility costs, judicial costs and other office expenditure. Additionally HMCS in Wales allocated a further £1,762,000 for capital estates schemes in North Wales that included refurbishment works and essential improvements that ensured compliance of legislative responsibilities.

Funding allocations for court services in North Wales for 2010–11 currently stands at £7,546,155. Additionally HMCS in Wales allocated a further £2,888,000 for capital estates schemes in North Wales that included works and essential improvements that ensured compliance of legislative responsibilities and an integration scheme at Wrexham.

HMCS is unable to confirm the level of funding that will be provided for North Wales for 2011-12. HMCS and HM Tribunals service will merge to form a new agency on 1 April 2011. The settlement for HMCTS has yet to be agreed.

Information Commissioner

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what meetings the Information Commissioner has had with his international counterparts in the last 24 months. [22244]

Mr Djanogly: The Information Commissioner and his staff regularly meet their international counterparts. Meetings include attendance at the annual International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners; the European Privacy and Data Protection Commissioners' Conference; the Article 29 Data Protection Working Party and the Joint Supervisory Authority for Customs and the Schengen information System.

Note:

This information was provided by the Information Commissioner's Office.

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average annual salary is of an employee in the Office of the Information Commissioner. [22245]

Mr Djanogly: The average full-time equivalent salary of an employee of the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), including the Information Commissioner, is £26,422.

Note:

This information was provided by the Information Commissioner's Office.

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff are employed by the Office of the Information Commissioner. [22246]

Mr Djanogly: On 31 October 2010, 354 staff (equivalent to 330 full-time staff) were employed by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). This includes the Information Commissioner.

Note:

This information was provided by the Information Commissioner's Office.

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* annual salary and *(b)* benefits including (i) car scheme, (ii) pension contributions, (iii) bonus payments and (iv) expenses payments were of (A) each Deputy Information Commissioner, (B) the Director of Corporate Affairs, (C) the Director of Operations, (D) the Director of Organisational Development and (E) each non-executive Director in the Office of the Information Commissioner in the last 24 months. [22250]

Mr Djanogly: The annual salary and pension contributions for the Information Commissioner's executive team are set out in the following table in £5,000 pay bands:

	Deputy Commissioner (1 – Data Protection)	*Deputy Commissioner (2 – Freedom of Information)*	*Director of Corporate Affairs*	*Director of Operations*	*Director of Organisational Development*
2008-09					
Annual salary[1]	£70,000-£75,000	£80,000-£85,000	£55,000-£60,000	£75,000-£80,000	£50,000-£55,000
Pension contributions	£15,000-£20,000	£20,000-£25,000	£10,000-£15,000	£20,000-£25,000	£10,000-£15,000
2009-10					
Annual salary[2]	£75,000-£80,000	£80,000-£85,000	£55,000-£60,000	£80,000-£85,000	£50,000-£55,000
Pension contributions	£15,000-£20,000	£20,000-£25,000	£10,000-£15,000	£20,000-£25,000	£10,000-£15,000

[1] From 1 July 2008

[2] From 1 July 2009

The remuneration packages and expenses for the Information Commissioner and members of his executive team are published in the Information Commissioner's annual report 2009-10, which was laid before Parliament in July 2010. There was no increase in the salaries or pension contributions from the 2009-10 financial year to the 2010-11 financial year for members of the executive team.

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) does not operate a car scheme. However, members of the executive team have access to a cash health plan on subscription with a value of £60 per annum. Members of the executive team are eligible for bonus payments of £250 per annum.

The ICO has four non-executive directors. They each receive a salary of £12,000 a year, which is non-pensionable. The non-executive directors are required to work 15 days per year and they are not entitled to bonus payments or additional benefits.

The expenses for members of the executive team (excluding the Information Commissioner) and the non-executive directors are set out in the following table:

Expense claims paid in the following financial years

£

	2008-2009	*2009-2010*	*2010-11*[1]
Executive team members			
Simon Entwisle	1,381	993	318
Vicky Best	698	696	0
Susan Fox	1,194	618	252
David Smith	8,859	5,284	638
Graham Smith	1,969	868	109
Non-executive team members			
Alistair Graham (stepped down 30 November 2009)	879	536	n/a
Clare Tickell (stepped down 30 April 2010)	810	1,126	111
David Clarke (stepped down 30 November 2009)	818	932	n/a
Robert Chilton (stepped down 31 August 2010)	880	900	180
Neil Masom (appointed 1 December 2009)	n/a	0	0
Enid Rowlands (appointed 1 December 2009)	n/a	323	163
Jane May (appointed 1 May 2010)	n/a	n/a	445
Andrew Hind (appointed 1 September 2010)	n/a	n/a	0

[1] Until 31 October 2010

Note:

This information was provided by the Information Commissioner's Office.'

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent by the management board of the Office of the Information Commissioner on *(a)* taxi fares and *(b)* other transport in the last 24 months. [22251]

Mr Djanogly: The management board comprises the executive and non-executive directors. Expenditure by the management board on taxis and other transport since the 2008-09 financial year is set out as follows:

£

Financial year	*Taxis*	*Other transport*
2008-09	6,031	70,754
2009-10	4,764	45,792
2010-11 (up to 31 October 2010)	591	20,705

Note:

This information was provided by the Information Commissioner's Office.

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the annual leave entitlement is of each member of the management board of the Office of the Information Commissioner. [22252]

Mr Djanogly: The Management Board comprises the Executive Team and the non-executive directors. The Executive Team members are entitled to annual leave of

25, 27 or 30 days per annum depending on their length of service. Non-executive directors are not entitled to annual leave.

Note:

This information was provided by the Information Commissioner's Office.

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the annual *(a)* revenue and *(b)* capital budget was for the Office of the Information Commissioner in each year since it was established. [22253]

Mr Djanogly: This information is being collated. I will write to the hon. Member with this information as soon as possible.

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which buildings the Office of the Information Commissioner *(a)* owns and *(b)* rents; and how much funding the Office of the Information Commissioner allocated to property expenditure in the last 24 months. [22255]

Mr Djanogly: The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) owns no buildings. The ICO leases the following properties:

Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire (entire building)
Cambrian Buildings, Mount Stuart Square, Cardiff (part floor)
51 Adelaide Street, Belfast (one floor).

In addition, the ICO occupies the following properties under licence:

93-95 Hanover Street, Edinburgh (part floor)
Millbank Tower, London (part floor)
Earl Road, Nr Cheadle, Cheshire (storage space).

The following table outlines expenditure on property, which includes rent, rates and refurbishment costs.

Financial year	*Cost in £*
2008-09	1,217,000
2009-10	970,000
2010-11[1]	2,763,541

[1] Up until 31 October 2010.

The increase in expenditure between 2009-10 and 2010-11 reflects the refurbishment costs of Wycliffe House.

Note:

This information was provided by the Information Commissioner's Office.

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest salary is of an employee in the Office of the Information Commissioner. [22256]

Mr Djanogly: The highest salary of £140,000 is paid to the Information Commissioner and is published in his annual report. The lowest salary paid to an employee of the ICO is within the salary band £11,939 to £16,152.

Note:

This information was provided by the Information Commissioner's Office.

Judges: Public Appointments

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to announce the changes his Department proposes to the way in which judicial appointments are made; and if he will make a statement. [22409]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: On 28 June I announced my intention to review the operation of the judicial appointments process in close consultation with the Lord Chief Justice. We have decided that the Judicial Appointments Commission (JAC) and the Judicial Appointments and Conduct Ombudsman will remain in place as valued independent bodies, which do much to bring openness to the way candidates are selected for judicial appointments.

However, it is clear that at times the appointments process can take too long and cost too much. The first duty of the Commission is to maintain the high quality of Judicial appointments but I believe that the JAC should also focus on delivering efficiency in the selection of judges, working with the judiciary and the unified Courts and Tribunals Service. The recruitment of the new Chair of the JAC is underway and, with the Lord Chief Justice, I look forward to working with the Commission on more detailed proposals for improving the appointments process, in the first instance within the existing statutory framework. Any subsequent proposals requiring legislation would be brought forward in the usual way.

Prison Sentences

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to review the powers in respect of indeterminate public protection sentences under the Criminal Justice Act 2003. [22647]

Mr Blunt: We have announced that we are conducting an assessment of sentencing. The sentencing assessment is looking at the full range of penalties and restorative measures available in the criminal justice system including sentences of imprisonment for public protection.

We will publish a Green Paper later this year, setting out plans to reform sentencing and rehabilitate offenders more effectively.

Prisons: Employment

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what expenditure his Department has incurred on employment support for prisoners in England and Wales in the latest period for which figures are available; and what percentage of prisoners secure employment within six months of release in that period. [22850]

Mr Blunt: No such information is held centrally. There is considerable employment support work undertaken to help prisoners across the NOMS estate. Expenditure for this work is part of prison baseline funding and it is not currently possible to disaggregate the costs. A considerable amount of work in this area is also undertaken in partnership with the Department of Business Innovation and Skills as well as the Department of Work and Pensions.

In 2009-10, 24.5%[1] of prisoners discharged from prison entered employment upon release. NOMS does not track the employment status of discharged prisoners within six months of their release date.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Developing Countries: Climate Change

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development under which budget headings he plans to allocate the £2.9 billion funding for climate finance announced in the comprehensive spending review. [22767]

Mr O'Brien: The £2.9 billion International Climate Fund (ICF), funded by the Department for International Development (DFID), the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) will be used to support adaptation and low carbon development and to help tackle deforestation in developing countries. Specific spending decisions have not yet been made.

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether the £2.9 billion allocated to climate finance in the comprehensive spending review includes all of the UK's £1.5 billion share of the fast-start finance pledged at Copenhagen. [22768]

Mr O'Brien: No. Part of the UK's fast-start commitment will be spent in 2010-11, before the new spending review period, which runs from 2011-12 to 2014-15. Spending on Fast Start in 2011-12 and 2012-13 will come from the International Climate Fund (ICF), which is budgeted for in the new spending review period.

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of international climate finance he expects to be delivered in the form of loans in the period from 2010 to 2015. [22769]

Mr O'Brien: UK international climate finance will include grants and loans. The balance between them will depend on specific spending decisions that have not yet been made.

St Helena: Airfields

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether funding provided by his Department for the construction of an airfield on St Helena will be classified as official development assistance. [22644]

Mr Duncan: All the Department for International Development's (DFID's) support for St Helena, including any funding proposed for the airport, meets the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD's) definition of Official Development Assistance (ODA).

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department plans to allocate to the construction of an airfield on St Helena. [22651]

Mr Duncan: It would be inappropriate to announce the proposed funding allocation for the St Helena airport, since doing so could prejudice our future commercial negotiations.

Sub-Saharan Africa: Cotton

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has undertaken of the effects of European Union cotton subsidies on farmers in sub-Saharan Africa; and if he will make a statement. [22226]

Mr O'Brien: The UK Government have supported significant research into the impacts of cotton subsidies on African farmers, including EU cotton subsidies. These subsidies have a significant negative impact on farmers in sub-Saharan Africa and their removal is a key objective of the UK Government.

The Department for International Development (DFID) will work closely with DEFRA to reform the EU Common Agricultural Policy and eliminate direct support to the EU cotton sector.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Google

Robert Halfon: To ask the Attorney-General what representations the Crown Prosecution Service has received on prosecution of Google for illegal offences under *(a)* the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 and *(b)* the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006 in respect of its Street View project; and if he will make a statement. [22705]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) was contacted by Avon and Somerset police in May of this year for advice on what its likely view would be on prosecuting Google for potential offences arising out of its Street View project. The CPS position is that if, following an investigation, a file were to be submitted to the CPS, then the case would be reviewed in accordance with the Code for Crown Prosecutors and dealt with accordingly. No other representations are known to have been received, although such requests would not be collated centrally.

Human Trafficking: Prosecutions

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Attorney-General what steps the Government is taking to increase the proportion of prosecutions of those engaged in human trafficking which result in conviction. [22378]

The Solicitor-General: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given by the Attorney-General to the oral parliamentary question from my hon. Friend the Member for South West Bedfordshire (Andrew Selous) on 26 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 161-62.

Offences Against the Person Act 1861: Prosecutions

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Attorney-General how many prosecutions the Crown Prosecution Service has brought under section 35 of the Offences against the

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[1] NOMS Annual Report for 2009-10 Employment on Release figures. Employment outcomes were expressed as a proportion of recorded discharges. Performance was calculated using recorded employment status and discharge data. The National Offender Management Service Annual Report and Accounts for 2009-10 was published on 9 September 2010.

Person Act 1861 for the offence of wanton and furious driving in the last five years; how many such prosecutions there have been in each such year; and what proportion of the prosecutions relating to the riding of a bicycle in each such year resulted in a conviction with a *(a)* custodial sentence of (i) two years and (ii) between one and two years and (iii) less than one year, *(b)* fine and *(c)* community sentence order. [23023]

The Solicitor-General: The records held by the Crown Prosecution Service identify the number of offences charged under Section 35 of the Offences against the Person Act 1861 in which a prosecution commenced, rather than the number of defendants prosecuted. During the last five years the number of these offences was as follows:

	Number
2005-06	33
2006-07	26
2007-08	18
2008-09	31
2009-10	25

CPS records do not identify the number of defendants prosecuted for specific offences. Rather, they show the number of offences in which a prosecution commenced and reached a first hearing in magistrates courts. CPS records do not identify the proportion of offences in which a bicycle was involved.

The following table outlines the total number of people sentenced under the above Act for causing bodily harm by furious driving where that was the principal offence sentenced. The Ministry of Justice data do not record how many of these cases involved bicycles.

Persons sentenced to immediate custody, by sentence band, or other outcome for causing bodily harm by furious driving[1], England and Wales, 2005-09[2] [3]

Outcome	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Total sentenced	8	7	5	11	12
Immediate custody	2	4	0	4	5
Of which:					
Less than one year	1	3	0	1	3
Over one year and less than two years	7	1	0	3	2
2 years	0	0	0	0	0
Fine	1	0	0	0	1
Community sentence	4	1	1	2	3
Suspended sentence	0	2	4	5	3
Discharges	1	0	0	0	0
Otherwise dealt with	0	0	0	0	0

[1] Offences against the Person Act 1861 S.35

[2] The figures given in the table relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics—Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Rape: Prosecutions

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Attorney-General what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Crown Prosecution Service in bringing prosecutions for rape; and if he will make a statement. [22854]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) is committed to ensuring that offenders are brought to justice through successful prosecutions, in accordance with the Code for Crown Prosecutors. The CPS works with the police and others partners to ensure that investigations and prosecutions are as effective as possible; and that victims are given appropriate support.

Sovereignty of Parliament

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Attorney-General what recent representations he has received on the judicial basis for parliamentary sovereignty. [22411]

The Solicitor-General: By long-standing convention, observed by successive Administrations and embodied in the Ministerial Code, the fact that the Law Officers have advised or have been requested to advise (or have not advised or have not been requested to advise) on a particular issue, and the content of any advice, is not disclosed outside Government.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Accommodation

Mr Knight: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission, how many staff in the House of Commons Service are provided with *(a)* overnight and *(b)* residential accommodation and facilities other than a worktime office; what positions are held by such persons; what accommodation is provided; and for what reason in each case. [22509][1]

Sir Stuart Bell: The House of Commons provides single-room hostel-style sleeping accommodation in John Islip street, for up to 17 staff who undertake occasional late duties. Staff including doorkeepers and administrative staff are eligible to use the sleeping accommodation provided they satisfy the following guidelines:

> They are expected to be on duty to support the House or its Committees after 10.30 pm and they live outside the 25 mile taxi radius.
>
> They are on duty until the rising of the House if this is expected to be after 7.30 pm and they are required for duty before 8.30 am the following day.
>
> There is a departmental business reason and they have prior approval.

In addition, sleeping facilities on the estate are provided for the Deputy Serjeant at Arms, Assistant Serjeant at Arms, Clerk Assistant, Clerk of Committees, Clerk of Legislation, Assistant Secretary to the Speaker and the Speaker's Trainbearer. This reflects the requirement that they are present on the parliamentary estate over prolonged periods and at unpredictable times.

Six staff are entitled to residential accommodation so that they can be available for duty at short notice. They are the Clerk of the House, Serjeant at Arms, Speaker's

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1. *[Official Report, 12 November 2010, Vol. 518, c. 3MC.]*

Secretary, Head Office Keeper and two Senior Office Keepers. The addresses of the accommodation are: 2 Parliament street, 3 Parliament street, 2a Canon row, 2b Canon row, 4 Canon row and a flat at 102 Rochester row.

Early Day Motions

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission, what the cost to the House of Commons Service was of processing early-day motions in Session *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [22571]

Sir Stuart Bell: The estimated cost to the House of administering and processing early-day motions (EDMs) in financial year 2009-10 was approximately £1 million. Figures for the previous year are not readily available but there is no reason to suppose that they were significantly different in real terms, other than that the number of EDMs tabled may be higher in a longer session.

Most of this cost was accounted for by printing and publication of early-day motions, amendments to them, and names added to them, under the House's contract with TSO. This cost nearly £776,000 in 2009-10.

Expenditure is incurred on staff time to process and input notices relating to early-day motions, and to index that material. Staff who deal with EDMs also undertake other duties, but a rough estimate of the full salary costs incurred from the estimated amount of their time spent on EDMs, including employer's pension contribution and national insurance, is of the order of £150,000 for 2009-10.

In addition, technical support for the EDMi database and the Table Office's software application for processing EDMs cost approximately £87,000 in 2009-10.

Genetically Modified Organisms: Food

Mr Knight: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission, whether any *(a)* genetically modified and *(b)* irradiated food is served or offered for sale in House of Commons catering and retail outlets. [22510]

Sir Stuart Bell: In line with its procurement policy, the House of Commons Catering Service avoids, wherever identifiable, the procurement of foods that contain genetically modified organisms. To this end, as part of the tendering process, food suppliers are required to work to a strict GMO policy and give assurances that goods supplied be free from genetically modified materials.

In line with guidance from the Food Standards Agency there is no defined policy which covers the procurement of irradiated foods; however the House of Commons Catering Service does not knowingly purchase any foodstuffs that are irradiated.

House of Commons: Pay

Mr Knight: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission, how many staff employed in the House of Commons Service on 1 November 2010 earned as much as or more than an hon. Member; and what the *(a)* posts and *(b)* current salaries are of such staff. [22511]

Sir Stuart Bell: The basic salary payable to Members is £65,738 per annum as at 1 November 2010. At that date, 78 staff were paid an annual salary above this figure. A list of the posts in the Senior Commons Structure and at pay band A1, which have pay maxima higher than Members' current salary, will be placed in the Library, together with the individual pay of SCS2 and SCS3 staff in £5,000 bands. Details of the staff pay bands and staff pay arrangements are available on the parliamentary intranet. The salaries of Members of the Board of Management are disclosed in the House of Commons: Administration annual accounts.

Official Report: Finance

Mr Knight: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission, what the total cost was of producing an edition of the *Official Report* to record the Youth Parliament debate on 29 October 2010; and from what budget the money will be drawn. [22729]

Sir Stuart Bell: *Official Report* staff produced the report of the Youth Parliament debate on 29 October 2010; no additional staff costs were incurred. Parliamentary Print Services produced the printed copies of the report at a cost of £186. This will come from the budget of the Department of Chamber and Committee Services.

UK Youth Parliament

Philip Davies: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission, what the cost to the public purse was under each budgetary heading of hosting the UK Youth Parliament debate on Friday 29 October 2010. [22239]

Sir Stuart Bell: The additional cost was:

Budget	£
Catering	8,689
Broadcasting	8,415
Printing	1,278
Training	1,500
Photographs	760
Supplies	216
Total	20,858

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

BBC: Broadband

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will bring forward proposals to provide independent access to broadband for providers dependent on BBC licence fee funding for the extension of such services. [22991]

Mr Vaizey: I have been asked to reply in my capacity as a Minister in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Broadband infrastructure upgrades utilising the public funding announced in the spending review will follow public procurement guidelines. Those guidelines require competitive tendering and additionally require wholesale access to that infrastructure to be made available to all suppliers of broadband services.

Olympic Games 2012

Amber Rudd: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he plans to decide on the route for the Olympic torch; and if he will consider including Hastings as a location on the route. [22723]

Hugh Robertson: The Olympic and Paralympic torch relays are the responsibility of the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG). LOCOG has announced its vision for welcoming the Olympic flame, when the torch arrives in the UK on Friday 18 May 2012. The torch will travel around the UK for 70 days, arriving in London the weekend before the games begin.

LOCOG has not finalised the Olympic torch relay route at this stage but is currently undertaking initial route planning. LOCOG has confirmed that the torch will come within a one-hour journey time of 95% of the UK population. Earlier this year, local communities were invited to contribute expressions of interest and ideas for hosting a welcome event for the torch during a three-month tour of the UK's Nations and Regions. These evening celebration events will be announced next year, as they are confirmed.

Olympic Games 2012: Counterfeit Manufacturing

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps are being taken to deter counterfeit ticketing for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. [22472]

Hugh Robertson: The London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) is responsible for the ticketing arrangements for the London 2012 Games. As the almost entirely privately-financed Organising Committee, LOCOG must raise a significant proportion of its £2 billion budget from ticket sales.

Tickets are protected by the London Olympic Games and Paralympic Games Act of 2006, which makes any unauthorised sale of London 2012 tickets in a public place, in the course of a business, or for profit a criminal act. LOCOG works very closely with the Metropolitan police unit charged with working to prevent ticket fraud. A dedicated Metropolitan police team from the Specialist Crime Directorate—Operation Podium—has been working with key Olympic stakeholders to profile the risks, share intelligence and build in prevention measures associated with ticketing fraud.

Through the launch of its 'Sign Up' campaign, LOCOG is educating the public on where the official outlets for tickets are—in the UK, tickets will only be available through LOCOG, its partner Thomas Cook and prestige ticketing suppliers. Outside of the UK, tickets will only be available for purchase through each National Olympic Committee's appointed ticket agent. LOCOG now owns significant numbers of online domain names, and where other sites claim to sell tickets LOCOG takes action, including reporting them to the police. It will be illegal to sell tickets on auction websites.

Olympic Games 2012: Low Income Families

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps are being taken to allocate tickets for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games to low income families. [22473]

Hugh Robertson: The London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) is responsible for the ticketing arrangements for the London 2012 Games. As the almost entirely privately-financed Organising Committee, LOCOG must raise a significant proportion of its £2 billion budget from ticket sales.

LOCOG has announced pricing for Olympic tickets, which provides for accessible and affordable tickets to achieve full stadia at Games-time, and in doing so offer as many people as possible the chance to attend the Games. Almost a third of Olympic tickets will cost £20 or less, and these tickets will feature in every sport. LOCOG has also announced special pricing arrangements for seniors, a "Pay Your Age" scheme at nearly a third of all sessions for those 16 or under, and "Ticketshare", a scheme where 100,000 tickets have been paid for by those buying prestige hospitality tickets which will be distributed to school children via schools registered as part of the London 2012 Get Set Network. Tickets for events in London will also include a travel card, zones 1-6 on the day of the event. Arrangements for Paralympic ticket prices will be announced in 2011, which will demonstrate further affordability.

Redundancy

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much funding to meet staff redundancy costs was identified in his Department's settlement letter in respect of the comprehensive spending review. [21520]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: All pressures on Departments' budgets were taken into account as part of the spending review and settlements were allocated accordingly. The full costs of redundancies will be met from within the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's resource DEL settlement.

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of staff redundancy in each of the next four years. [21522]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: Determining optimal work force reforms in order to live within the Department for Culture, Media and Sport spending review resource DEL settlement is an ongoing process.

The Department is not able to provide an accurate estimate of the cost of redundancies as yet for each of the next four years as we, alongside other public sector bodies across Government, are awaiting the outcome of the Superannuation Bill which is due to be finalised in December 2010.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Departmental Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each of its Ministers in *(a)* September and *(b)* October 2010. [21779]

Gregory Barker: The amount spent in September was £118.44.

The provisional figure, pending the receipt of final invoices, for October was £1,040.82.

Renewable Energy: Shetland

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has made an assessment of the merits of capping renewable energy transmission charges for Shetland and Orkney; and if he will make a statement. [21286]

Charles Hendry: Ofgem is currently conducting an overarching review of transmission charges through Project TransmiT which was launched on 22 September. In parallel with Project TransmiT, I will be undertaking analysis so a decision can be made on whether to use section 185 of the Energy Act 2004 to adjust transmission charges for renewable generation on Shetland and Orkney and the Western Isles. I aim to be in a position to act quickly should a section 185 scheme be required once we know the outcome of Project TransmiT.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Anti-Semitism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government who serves on the cross-Government working group to tackle anti-Semitism; on what dates the working group has met since May 2010; on what dates the group plans to meet during the next six months; and if he will make a statement. [20254]

Andrew Stunell: The cross-Government working group to tackle anti-Semitism is made up of civil servants from across Whitehall as well as representatives of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, the Jewish Leadership Council, the Community Security Trust and a representative of the All Party Parliamentary Group Against Anti-Semitism. The working group met on Friday 23 July 2010. Further meetings are planned for Wednesday 17 November 2010, followed by meetings during the second week of February 2011 and June 2011.

Global Peace and Unity Conference

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Ministers attended the Islam Channel Global Peace and Unity conference on 23 and 24 October 2010; what assessment he has made of the outcome of that conference; and what discussions he has had with *(a)* ministerial colleagues and *(b)* officials on ministerial attendance at the conference. [22863]

Andrew Stunell: I attended the Global Peace and Unity event on 24 October on behalf of the Government. No assessment has been made of the outcome of the conference. Ministers and officials have regular discussions about ministerial attendance at public events.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Pakistan

15. **Andrew Stephenson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on Pakistan; and if he will make a statement. [22541]

Mr Hague: A stable, secure and prosperous Pakistan is in Britain's interest, and in the interests of all EU member states. I have had intensive contact with my EU counterparts in recent weeks to ensure substantial European support for Pakistan following the floods, including on trade access.

21. **Jason McCartney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the policy of the EU on Pakistan; and if he will make a statement. [22547]

Mr Hague: The EU is Pakistan's largest trading partner, one of the largest investors in Pakistan, and has a relationship covering counter-terrorism, governance, humanitarian aid and development. We want to see a deeper, more visible EU-Pakistan relationship, including improved market access for Pakistani goods into the EU.

EU Treaties

16. **Chris Bryant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the proposed new EU treaty. [22542]

Mr Lidington: There is no proposed new EU treaty. However the European Council asked its President Herman Van Rompuy to "undertake consultations" on a limited treaty change to allow for the creation of a permanent crisis mechanism to "safeguard the financial stability of the Euro area".

Zimbabwe

17. **Claire Perry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Zimbabwe. [22543]

Mr Bellingham: Hardliners within the Inclusive Government continue to block reform. However, the Inclusive Government offer the best means of transforming Zimbabwe. We will continue to work with reformers in Zimbabwe and the region to prepare for credible and properly monitored elections.

Weapons Shipment: Lagos

18. **Steve McCabe:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the origin of the shipment of weapons seized in Lagos by the Nigerian authorities on 26 October 2010. [22544]

Mr Bellingham: We are aware of media allegations about Iranian links to the shipment of weapons seized in Lagos by the Nigerian authorities on 26 October 2010. If true, this would represent a serious and unacceptable breach of UN sanctions and further evidence of Iran's destabilising role in the Middle East. We continue to condemn Iranian support to groups such as Hamas and Hizballah which pursue an ideology of violence directly undermining prospects for peace in the region.

Yemen

19. **Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs What recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Yemen; and if he will make a statement. [22545]

Mr Hague: Yemen is fragile and in need of enhanced international support. It faces a combination of instability; poverty and rapid economic decline; and increasing terrorist activity by al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula. The Government of Yemen must take the lead in tackling this threat and pursuing reform and development. We, and others in the international community, remain ready to assist as required.

We have led the international response to this, both bilaterally through our long-standing relationship with the Yemeni Government and our substantial development programme, and multilaterally through the international Friends of Yemen Group.

University Teaching: Italy

20. **Valerie Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the outcome was of his recent meeting with the president of the Association of Foreign Lecturers in Italy on the rights of UK citizens teaching in universities in Italy; and if he will make a statement. [22546]

Mr Lidington: I met the President of the Association of Foreign Lecturers in Italy, Professor Petrie, on 28 October. I said that I would raise the issue with the Italian Minister for European Affairs, the Italian ambassador to the UK and the European Commissioner for Employment. Our British embassy in Rome will also meet members of the association and Italian Government officials.

It is wrong and contrary to the spirit of non-discrimination in the single market that the "lettori" should still be denied their rights. I shall continue to press the Italian Government on this issue.

Turkey

22. **Iain Stewart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the state of bilateral relations with Turkey; and if he will make a statement. [22548]

Mr Lidington: We have excellent co-operation with Turkey on a wide range of issues, reaffirmed in a new strategic partnership signed by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister during our joint visit to Turkey in July. Priority areas of co-operation include trade and investment, regional security, defence, energy and counter-terrorism.

British Nationals Abroad: Bereavement

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what training his Department provides for consular desk staff on provision of services to UK nationals bereaved by murder and manslaughter abroad. [22477]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is committed to delivering high quality support to British nationals overseas. We continue to invest in our staff to sustain their professionalism through compulsory training designed to give them the relevant skills and knowledge to provide appropriate support in a range of circumstances. Training covers customer care and welfare issues in addition to practical matters. Particular attention is paid to the special circumstances affecting the family of murder victims. Both knowledge of what help the FCO can provide and the skills staff must use when dealing with individuals in difficult circumstances are tested to ensure all staff meet the required standard.

Consular training team won five awards in 2009, including the International Visual Communications Association Gold award for Practical Training.

China: Human Rights

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department monitors the human rights record of Chinese state-owned enterprises which have operations in Africa. [22457]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government attach high importance to responsible business practices in Africa. In May 2010, the Department for International Development supported an international conference in Beijing on 'Corporate Social Responsibility and African Development'. The conference provided an opportunity for delegates from China, Africa, US and the EU to discuss how to promote and practice responsible business that can benefit Africa.

We have an active programme of engagement with China on Africa issues, including an annual official-level UK-China dialogue on Africa. The most recent round took place in Beijing in October 2010.

Colombia

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Colombian counterpart on imprisonment of Rosalba Gavira Toro. [21980]

Mr Jeremy Browne: On 5 November 2010 our embassy wrote to the Presidential Programme for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law to raise Mrs Gavira's case. We will continue to monitor her investigation and raise the matter with the Colombian authorities again should it prove necessary.

Colombia: Trade Unions

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to his Colombian counterpart on an investigation of the killing of trade union representative Nelson Murillo. [21350]

Mr Jeremy Browne: On 29 October, officials at our embassy in Bogota sent a letter to the Office of the Presidential Program of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law, the International Unit of the General Prosecutor's Office and the Human Rights Division of the Colombian Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding the assassination of Mr Murillo. We asked to be kept informed on the progress of the investigation. We will continue to monitor the investigation and raise the case again with the Colombian authorities should it prove necessary.

The safety of trade unionists in Colombia remains of great concern to us. Staff at our embassy in Bogota continue to visit those who are under threat and make representations to the Colombian authorities in cases of violence or intimidation against trade unionists. We are also working with the UN on a research initiative to help improve trade union human rights protection and the development of positive labour relations.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Minerals

Paul Goggins: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to ensure that minerals sourced in the Democratic Republic of Congo and sold by UK companies are ethically sourced. [22526]

Mr Bellingham: The UK is committed to promoting responsible corporate behaviour amongst British companies wherever they operate. We promote high standards of accountability and responsibility with regard to human rights from British companies trading in natural resources sourced from the Democratic Republic of Congo and adherence to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) voluntary Guidelines for Multinationals. We support new OECD due diligence guidelines for mineral supply chains.

Departmental Early Retirement

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have been offered enhanced early retirement packages in each of the last three years. [22025]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has offered the following numbers of staff early retirement on compulsory early retirement (CER) or flexible early retirement (FER) terms. CER and FER are the only schemes which allow for an enhancement of service. The Civil Service pensions website at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/my-civil-service/pensions/index.aspx

has descriptions of the various terms currently on offer under the Civil Service Compensation Scheme (CSCS).

2008-09: 59 staff (20 CER, 39 FER)
2009-10: 95 staff (14 CER, 81 FER)
2010-11: 51 staff (0 CER, 51 FER)

For FCO Services the position is:

2008-09: One CER
2009-10: Nil
2010-11: Nil

For Wilton Park:

2008-09: Nil
2009-10: Nil
2010-11: four FER

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office and our agencies only offer early departure schemes where they will help to address staffing issues within the organisation which have been identified by our Strategic Workforce Plan. Applications are assessed against a number of criteria including business need and value for money. All packages which are agreed are calculated and paid in strict accordance with the rules of the CSCS.

EU Law

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many EU *(a)* regulations and *(b)* directives affecting the UK were passed in each year since 1997; and how many were transposed into domestic law in each year since 1997. [22057]

Mr Lidington: This information is not held centrally as it is the responsibility of each Government Department to ensure that EU legislative instruments are transposed into UK law. It would entail disproportionate cost to research and compile this information.

However, research has been conducted concerning the amount of UK legislation that is affected by EU regulations and directives which is available in the Library of the House titled "How Much Legislation Comes from the EU" under reference 10/62.

European External Action Service

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many former staff of his Department terminated their employment to join the European External Action Service in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010. [21800]

Mr Lidington: No members of Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff have terminated their employment to join the European External Action Service (EEAS). If recruited, Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff will join the EEAS on secondment for a fixed period and will then return to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

European Union

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent progress he has made on his proposals to repatriate powers from the EU to the UK; what opportunities for the UK to repatriate powers from the EU he expects in the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [22054]

Mr Lidington: The Government's priority has been the European Union Bill. The aim of the forthcoming Bill is to increase democratic and parliamentary control, scrutiny and accountability over EU decision making. The Bill will introduce a 'referendum lock'. This referendum lock will ensure that any proposed future treaty, or treaty amendment, that transferred competences or areas of power from the UK to the EU would be subject to a referendum.

Our national priority is getting our budget under control, and that includes getting the EU budget under control. We have had a significant success at the October European Council in doing that, not just for this budget but in framing the debate for the next multi-annual EU budget. That is what we will be focusing on in the months ahead.

In fulfilment of the coalition agreement we have begun initial work on the balance of the EU's competences. In addition we will continue to work to limit the application of the working time directive in the United Kingdom.

Foreign Nationals: Bereavement

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on assisting foreign nationals bereaved by murder and manslaughter while in the UK in 2009. [22474]

Mr Blunt: I have been asked to reply.

Lead responsibility for ensuring provision of support services and assistance to victims of crime rests with the Ministry of Justice.

In 2009-10 the Ministry of Justice provided funding of £38.2 million to Victim Support to support their work across England and Wales. Victim Support provides assistance to victims of crime in England and Wales, regardless of their nationality. An additional £250,000 was provided to specialist organisations providing support to relatives bereaved by murder and manslaughter from the Victims Fund and £140,000 to the organisation Support after Murder and Manslaughter.

For 2010-11 the Ministry of Justice has allocated £45 million for Victim Support, £140,000 for Support After Murder and Manslaughter and £270,474 for specialist organisations supporting bereaved relatives via the Victims Fund.

Iran: Higher Education

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of restrictions imposed by the Government of Iran on university courses in *(a)* law, *(b)* philosophy, *(c)* management, *(d)* psychology, *(e)* political science and *(f)* women's studies and human rights in that country; and if he will make a statement. [21936]

Alistair Burt: We are aware of reports of restrictions on a number of social science university courses in Iran, including reports that no new departments will be opened and existing courses will have their content revised. Restrictions to women's studies and human rights courses are of particular concern and we will continue to monitor these developments closely.

Iran: Iraq

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what recent reports he has received of the *(a)* supply and *(b)* training by Iran of militias and insurgents in Iraq; and if he will make a statement; [R] [21939]

(2) what recent reports he has received on the supply to al-Qaeda of suicide vests by the Government of Iran; and if he will make a statement. [R] [21940]

Alistair Burt: We have not seen recent reports of Iran supplying suicide vests to al-Qaeda. But we have longstanding and serious concerns about Iranian financial and material support to militia groups in Iraq, and the Taliban. We have repeatedly called on Iran to work with the international community to build a stable and secure future for the region.

Iran: Nuclear Power

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to ensure that the Government of Iran complies with its international obligations in relation to nuclear non-proliferation. [22415]

Alistair Burt: The UK has been at the forefront of international efforts to intensify pressure on Iran to comply with its obligations. We have supported unprecedented UN and EU sanctions to this end. We are fully focused on a diplomatic resolution to this issue and are using all channels to urge Iran to enter into negotiations.

Iraq: Prisoners

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the letter from the Minister of State of 30 September 2010, ref. 88511, what response embassy officials received from the Iraqi Chief of Prisons Monitoring Department on prison conditions for *(a)* Dr Mahdi Saleh, *(b)* Mr Haman Yousif Hamadi and *(c)* Dr Amwer Rashid after they had made representations in each case; and if he will make a statement. [22342]

Alistair Burt: Our embassy has made no representations to Iraqi Chief of Prisons Monitoring Department with regard to these individuals, who are Iraqi citizens standing trial in accordance with Iraqi Law at the Iraqi High Tribunal, nor was any undertaking made to make such representations in the letter of 30 September.

We regularly discuss the justice system, and prison conditions, with senior members of the Iraqi Government. In August 2010 our ambassador in Baghdad met with the Iraqi Human Rights Minister and raised concerns over prison conditions. On 7 September our embassy officials in Baghdad met with the Chief of Prisons Monitoring Department during a Human Rights working group with EU embassies and also discussed conditions of prisons and treatment of detainees. We will continue to look for opportunities to remind the Iraqi authorities that any prisoners detained without charge should be dealt with by due process and, should be treated in line with internationally accepted standards regarding fair trials and prisoners' rights.

Israel: Sanctions

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has received recent representations from trade union leaders on trade boycotts against Israel; and if he will make a statement. [20970]

Alistair Burt: We do receive representations from groups who advocate a trade boycott against Israel.

However, we do not think boycotts are a constructive way forward. They are an obstruction to the close friendship and trade links shared between the UK and Israel.

Lebanon: Anti-Israeli Missile

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will undertake pre-emptive multilateral diplomatic action to prevent the escalation of anti-Israeli missile deployment in Lebanon. [22902]

Alistair Burt: We continue to press for the full implementation of United Nations (UN) Security Council Resolutions, most notably UN Security Council Resolution 1701, which calls upon Hizballah to disarm.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary underlined the importance of UN Security Council Resolution 1701 with Prime Minister Hariri during his visit to the UK last week. I also raised these issues during my visit to Syria and Lebanon in July underlining the need to prevent the flow of arms to Hizballah.

Mental Health

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the recommendations relevant to his Department's policy responsibilities contained in the Foresight Report on Mental Capital and Wellbeing by the Government Office for Science; if he will ensure that his Department takes steps to promote wellbeing; if he will ensure that his Department's policy development process takes account of psychological research into subjective wellbeing; and if he will make a statement. [22204]

Alistair Burt *[holding answer 8 November 2010]:* The Foresight Report recognises the important role employers have to play in promoting the mental well-being of those in their care. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) already has in place many of the initiatives highlighted in the report. These include a health care scheme for staff and families posted overseas, an in-house welfare and occupational health service, access to a confidential Employee Assistance Programme, a stress management framework, based on the Health and Safety Executive's management standards and a regular programme of health promotion activities. The FCO regularly reviews its policies towards mental well-being in the light of operational experience and the prevailing academic research. Additional support is offered to staff serving in high threat posts (Iraq, Afghanistan), and to those who have been involved in traumatic incidents while serving overseas.

North Korea: Nuclear Power

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to ensure that the Government of North Korea comply with their international obligations in relation to nuclear non-proliferation. [22416]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The UK remains deeply concerned by North Korea's illicit nuclear weapons programme, which we regard as a threat to regional and international security. We strongly support the tough sanctions imposed by UN Security Council Resolutions 1718 and 1874. These are targeted to limit North Korea's proliferation activities, and we continue to work closely with international partners to ensure that these measures are robustly implemented. We hope that the Six-Party Talks process, which we view as the most realistic mechanism for making progress towards denuclearisation, recommences soon. In the meantime, we urge North Korea to refrain from any further provocative actions.

Taiwan: EU External Trade

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's policy is on the proposal for a free trade agreement between the EU and Taiwan. [22626]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We value our strong trade links with Taiwan and seek to enhance them. We support active consideration of practical measures to strengthen trade between the EU and Taiwan.

Terrorism: Expenditure

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's projected overseas counter-terrorism expenditure is for 2010-11. [22911]

Alistair Burt: The counter-terrorism department overseas programme budget in 2010-11 for counter-terrorism is £38 million.

UK Membership of EU

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the total annual gross benefit to *(a)* the public purse and *(b)* the UK economy as a result of the UK's membership of the EU. [21950]

Justine Greening: I have been asked to reply.

The UK's projected public sector receipt from the EU budget in 2010-11 is £4.8 billion. These figures can be found in the latest Public Expenditure Statistical Analysis document (see Table C1, page 176).

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pesa_2010_complete.pdf

The Treasury reviews as part of its analysis of the EU economy, a wide range of studies by external commentators that attempt to assess the costs and benefits of EU membership.

Venezuela: Human Rights

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on human rights in Venezuela; and if he will make a statement. [21930]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The EU Heads of Mission in Caracas compiled a report on Venezuela, including human rights, for the EU Latin America Working Group (COLAT) meeting held on 6 July 2010 in Brussels. We also receive regular reporting from our embassy.

The EU report focuses in particular on human rights concerns in the pre-electoral period. It said that while freedom of expression existed, there had been increasing cases of journalists being intimidated and harassed, as well as the closure of media outlets and some overt censorship by the press. Our embassy in Caracas continues to monitor the situation.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions *(a)* HM Ambassador to Venezuela, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* officials in his Department have had with the president of Venezuela on human rights in Venezuela; on what date each such meeting took place; who was present at each such meeting; and if he will make a statement. [22004]

Mr Jeremy Browne: There have not been any recent discussions with the President on issues of human rights.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary General of the United Nations on human rights in Venezuela; and if he will make a statement. [22005]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We have not had discussions with the Secretary General of the United Nations (UN) on human rights in Venezuela. However, we do work closely with the UN on the ground. We have helped refugees on the Venezuela-Colombian border in joint projects with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and are in regular contact with them.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the incidence of anti-Semitism in Venezuela; and if he will make a statement. [22009]

Mr Jeremy Browne: There have been anti-Semitic incidents in the past including an attack on a synagogue in January 2009. Our embassy in Caracas monitors this issue and has reported that there have not been any similar incidents of anti-Semitism since. We understand that President Chavez met members of the Jewish community in September this year.

HEALTH

Ambulance Services

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many incidents were recorded of ambulances experiencing difficulty in reaching patients in emergency need in Greater London between 19.00 on Tuesday 2 November 2010 and 19.00 on Wednesday 3 November 2010. [22915]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not available centrally. The hon. Member may wish to raise this directly with London Ambulance Service NHS trust.

Ambulance services are currently commissioned by primary care trusts, which have a responsibility to ensure that appropriate services are provided to their populations. Each ambulance service should therefore plan to provide appropriate resources to meet local demand.

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease: Health Services

Mr Meale: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many hospital admissions there were for *(a)* chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and *(b)* all respiratory diseases in (i) Mansfield district primary care trust area and (ii) each other primary care trust area in the latest period for which figures are available; [22230]

(2) how many hospital bed days there were for *(a)* chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and *(b)* all respiratory diseases in (i) Mansfield district primary care trust area and (ii) each other primary care trust area in the latest period for which figures are available. [22231]

Mr Simon Burns: The information has been placed in the Library.

Dental Services: Training

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration he gave to the training provided for newly-qualified dentists when formulating his proposals for the new contract for NHS dentistry. [22329]

Mr Simon Burns: We are committed, following consultation and piloting, to introducing a new dentistry contract with a focus on improving quality, achieving good dental health and increasing access to national health service dentistry. We will be consulting patients, the NHS and the dental profession including the postgraduate dental deans who are responsible for quality assuring the vocational training which newly qualified dental graduates are required to undertake before they may practise in the NHS. Since this training is undertaken in primary care dental practices, the dentists should be able to familiarise themselves with the new contractual arrangements at an early stage in their careers.

Health Education: Young People

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans the Government have for providing teenagers with access to information and advice on making healthy lifestyle choices in schools. [22598]

Anne Milton: We will outline our plans for helping teenagers to make healthy choices in the forthcoming public health White Paper. In addition, the Department for Education wants all young people to benefit from high quality personal social health and economic teaching and is currently considering how best to ensure this.

Health Visitors: Stoke-on-Trent

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding he has allocated to the provision of health visitors in Stoke-on-Trent in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12. [22835]

Anne Milton: Health visitors have a key role to play in leading and delivering the Healthy Child Programme and wider health services to children and families locally and in ensuring that links are made where appropriate with primary care practitioners. The work that they do is central to support the health and development of all children, in particular the most vulnerable.

We announced on 21 October 2010, a national recruitment drive to create 4,200 new health visitor posts and build a rejuvenated profession, across the country, including the Stoke-on-Trent area.

Hospitals: Smoking

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the likely effect of implementation of a ban on smoking in psychiatric hospitals and psychiatric wards of hospitals; and if he will make a statement. [22693]

Paul Burstow: There is clear evidence that the smokefree legislation is working very well and almost all enclosed workspaces and public places including mental health units are free from second hand smoke and the dangers to health which arise from exposure to second hand smoke. Public support for the smokefree law is high and continues to grow. Even a majority of smokers now support the law. We will keep working on the evidence base for tobacco control and will say more about our plans in the public health white paper.

There are significant health inequalities associated with having a mental illness. 70% of those resident in mental health units smoke compared to 21% of the general population. Statistics show that the desire to stop smoking is as strong in those with mental illnesses as it is in those who do not. People with severe mental illness die on average 20 years sooner than the average and the majority of these deaths are smoking related. It is right that the incidence of smoking related early death is addressed across the population regardless of race, religion, social status, physical or mental health.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was for an MRI scan for patients from referral to scan in each primary care trust area in each year since 1997. [22217]

Mr Simon Burns: Waiting times for imaging diagnostic procedures were first collected in April 2006.

The average waiting time for a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan for patients from referral to scan in each primary care trust at the end of March in each year since 2006 is in the following table:

Median in-patient waiting time for MRI scans (weeks)

Time periods March 2007-August 2010 (commissioner based)

	Month ending March each year			
Primary care trusts (PCTs)	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Newcastle PCT	2.7	2.3	2.1	1.9
North Tyneside PCT	1.9	1.9	1.5	1.5
Hartlepool PCT	3.8	2.3	1.1	2.1
Stockton-on-Tees Teaching PCT	3.9	2.4	1.5	2.4
Darlington PCT	2.9	2.3	1.9	1.5
Gateshead PCT	2.1	1.6	1.9	2.0
South Tyneside PCT	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.7
Sunderland Teaching PCT	4.4	2.6	2.7	1.6
Middlesbrough PCT	2.6	2.3	1.5	1.8
County Durham PCT	3.6	2.4	1.9	1.8
Redcar and Cleveland PCT	2.5	2.5	1.3	1.2
Northumberland Care Trust	2.5	1.8	1.7	1.3
Salford PCT	3.7	1.0	1.2	2.0
Stockport PCT	5.7	2.3	1.6	1.3
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	4.3	1.2	1.4	1.3
Blackpool PCT	3.4	1.9	1.6	1.8
Bolton PCT	3.5	1.5	1.5	1.6
Warrington PCT	4.3	0.9	1.2	1.7
Knowsley PCT	3.3	1.9	1.4	1.6
Oldham PCT	4.5	2.4	1.6	1.5
Bury PCT	3.6	2.0	2.1	1.6
Tameside and Glossop PCT	3.7	2.1	1.9	2.3
Cumbria Teaching PCT	3.9	2.2	2.0	2.2
North Lancashire Teaching PCT	3.3	2.4	1.7	1.6
Central Lancashire PCT	3.6	1.7	1.5	1.4
East Lancashire Teaching PCT	3.0	2.1	1.7	1.8
Sefton PCT	3.8	1.7	1.7	1.7
Wirral PCT	2.7	2.1	1.6	2.1
Liverpool PCT	4.1	2.3	1.9	1.9
Halton and St Helens PCT	2.6	1.0	1.2	1.1
Western Cheshire PCT	2.1	n/a	1.4	1.9
Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	4.4	1.3	1.7	1.5
Heywood, Middleton And Rochdale PCT	3.5	2.1	2.8	1.8
Trafford PCT	3.6	2.1	2.0	2.1
Manchester PCT	3.8	2.2	1.9	1.8
Blackburn with Darwen Teaching Care Trust Plus	3.9	2.2	1.5	2.0
North Lincolnshire PCT	3.1	2.3	1.0	1.5
Rotherham PCT	2.3	2.5	1.9	2.0
Calderdale PCT	2.8	1.6	1.5	1.6
Barnsley PCT	2.4	1.5	1.4	1.6
Leeds PCT	2.0	2.1	1.6	2.1
Kirklees PCT	3.9	1.8	1.2	1.6
Wakefield District PCT	5.1	1.8	1.5	1.7
Sheffield PCT	2.9	2.1	1.0	0.9
Doncaster PCT	2.9	1.6	1.7	1.0
North Yorkshire and York PCT	2.8	2.4	1.6	1.6
East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	4.4	2.4	1.6	2.0
Hull Teaching PCT	5.0	2.4	1.7	2.4
Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT	3.7	2.1	1.9	0.7
North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus	2.6	2.3	1.0	1.1
Nottingham City PCT	2.9	2.3	1.5	2.3
Bassetlaw PCT	3.0	1.7	1.7	1.0
Derbyshire County PCT	2.2	1.8	1.4	1.6
Derby City PCT	1.6	2.4	1.5	1.9

Median in-patient waiting time for MRI scans (weeks)

Time periods March 2007-August 2010 (commissioner based)

Primary care trusts (PCTs)	*Month ending March each year*			
	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT	2.7	1.8	1.3	1.7
Lincolnshire Teaching PCT	3.8	1.8	1.4	1.7
Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	2.2	1.7	1.2	1.5
Leicester City PCT	2.1	1.9	1.2	1.4
Northamptonshire Teaching PCT	3.8	2.3	1.6	1.8
Herefordshire PCT	2.3	4.3	1.3	1.8
South Birmingham PCT	3.2	2.3	1.9	2.9
Shropshire County PCT	2.4	2.1	1.9	1.8
Walsall Teaching PCT	3.3	1.5	1.9	1.2
Coventry Teaching PCT	3.4	2.0	1.4	1.5
Telford and Wrekin PCT	3.7	2.6	1.7	1.8
Wolverhampton City PCT	2.6	1.8	1.5	1.4
Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	2.6	1.7	1.6	2.1
Dudley PCT	3.0	2.2	1.0	2.2
Sandwell PCT	2.7	2.1	1.5	1.8
Birmingham East and North PCT	3.2	2.4	1.8	2.1
North Staffordshire PCT	3.6	2.7	2.1	1.9
Stoke on Trent PCT	3.9	3.0	1.8	2.0
South Staffordshire PCT	4.0	2.1	1.7	2.2
Worcestershire PCT	3.1	1.8	1.5	1.9
Warwickshire PCT	3.6	2.2	1.6	1.6
Solihull Care Trust	3.1	2.6	1.3	2.1
Luton PCT	4.8	1.9	1.1	1.5
South East Essex PCT	2.0	n/a	1.4	1.7
Bedfordshire PCT	4.3	2.5	1.7	2.0
Peterborough PCT	3.4	2.2	2.3	2.0
Cambridgeshire PCT	2.6	1.6	1.7	2.0
Norfolk PCT	4.4	2.8	2.0	2.6
Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT	3.5	2.6	2.5	1.8
Suffolk PCT	3.5	2.4	1.5	2.0
West Essex PCT	4.6	3.0	2.4	2.3
North East Essex PCT	2.7	2.1	1.9	1.4
Mid Essex PCT	2.8	1.7	1.0	0.9
South West Essex PCT	4.3	2.2	1.0	1.5
East and North Hertfordshire PCT	3.7	2.2	1.9	2.0
West Hertfordshire PCT	4.7	2.1	1.7	1.4
Hertfordshire PCT	2.2	1.7	1.2	1.5
Havering PCT	4.9	2.4	1.6	2.2
Kingston PCT	4.8	2.1	1.5	1.4
Bromley PCT	3.3	3.4	0.9	0.9
Greenwich Teaching PCT	2.4	1.8	1.4	1.6
Barnet PCT	4.3	1.9	1.5	1.4
Hillingdon PCT	3.7	2.0	1.5	1.8
Enfield PCT	4.5	1.9	1.7	1.2
Barking and Dagenham PCT	4.5	2.2	1.6	2.0
City and Hackney Teaching PCT	2.5	2.6	1.5	1.4
Tower Hamlets PCT	2.1	2.2	1.7	1.9
Newham PCT	2.9	2.4	1.7	1.6
Haringey Teaching PCT	4.0	2.4	1.7	1.2
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	2.6	2.8	1.8	1.4
Ealing PCT	4.6	2.4	1.3	1.3
Hounslow PCT	6.0	3.1	2.2	1.0
Brent Teaching PCT	4.8	2.1	1.7	1.6
Harrow PCT	4.6	2.2	1.8	1.6
Camden PCT	2.7	2.5	2.0	1.4
Islington PCT	4.3	2.7	2.3	1.5
Croydon PCT	4.3	1.8	1.9	2.3
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	4.1	2.5	1.4	1.6
Westminster PCT	4.0	2.7	1.7	0.9
Lambeth PCT	3.1	2.1	1.8	1.7
Southwark PCT	3.1	2.1	2.0	2.0
Lewisham PCT	2.8	2.4	1.5	1.8
Wandsworth PCT	4.1	2.1	1.9	1.2
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	5.9	3.0	1.7	1.1
Sutton and Merton PCT	3.8	2.1	1.7	1.0
Redbridge PCT	4.4	2.0	1.6	1.7
Waltham Forest PCT	4.4	2.3	1.8	1.3
Bexley Care Trust	2.9	1.8	1.5	1.4
Medway PCT	2.4	1.5	1.3	2.3
Brighton and Hove City PCT	2.8	1.8	1.0	1.4
Surrey PCT	3.4	1.8	1.9	1.5
West Sussex PCT	3.3	2.1	1.9	1.6
East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	2.6	2.5	1.3	2.0
Hastings and Rother PCT	4.3	2.6	1.8	2.6
West Kent PCT	3.9	3.1	1.8	1.9
Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	4.0	2.0	1.6	1.6
Milton Keynes PCT	2.4	1.6	1.3	0.9
Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	4.7	2.4	1.4	2.6
Southampton City PCT	2.5	2.4	2.2	2.5
Hampshire PCT	3.5	2.1	1.5	2.2
Buckinghamshire PCT	4.1	2.2	1.4	1.7
Oxfordshire PCT	2.8	2.3	1.8	1.9
Berkshire West PCT	2.4	1.1	2.6	2.4
Berkshire East PCT	3.3	2.6	2.1	2.5
Isle of Wight NHS PCT	2.5	3.5	1.5	1.6
South Gloucestershire PCT	3.6	2.2	1.1	1.7
Plymouth Teaching PCT	3.3	1.5	1.7	1.9
Bath and North East Somerset PCT	6.0	1.2	1.7	1.4
Swindon PCT	5.1	1.4	2.4	3.3
North Somerset PCT	3.8	2.2	1.9	2.1
Gloucestershire PCT	3.2	1.6	1.6	1.2
Bristol PCT	3.7	1.9	1.5	2.0
Wiltshire PCT	4.6	1.6	1.8	1.6
Somers[illegible] PCT	3.2	1.4	1.3	1.3
Dorset PCT	3.5	2.6	1.3	1.5
Bournemouth and Poole Teaching PCT	2.6	2.5	1.4	1.5

Median in-patient waiting time for MRI scans (weeks)

Time periods March 2007-August 2010 (commissioner based)

	Month ending March each year			
Primary care trusts (PCTs)	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	5.3	2.3	1.1	1.8
Devon PCT	3.3	1.5	1.3	1.9
Torbay Care Trust	2.9	2.0	1.3	1.5

Notes:

1. Numbers reflect the median wait of those still waiting for MRI scan at month end.

2. Medians not calculated where waiting list is under 50.

Source:

Monthly Diagnostic (DM01) return to Department of Health

Influenza: Vaccination

Mr Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many doses of influenza vaccine are available for use in NHS facilities. [23049]

Anne Milton: Based on information supplied by vaccine manufacturers to the Department, 13.4 million doses of seasonal influenza vaccine had been distributed in the United Kingdom for both national health service and private use by 29 October 2010. This compares to 13.2 million doses at the equivalent point last year. Vaccine manufacturers advise that there are about 275,000 further doses still available for distribution.

Meat

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to prevent the importation of chicken injected with pork and beef waste; and if he will make a statement. [22730]

Anne Milton: There is no evidence of pork and beef waste products being added to chicken meat, however ingredients can be legally added from other meat species, provided they have been produced in accordance with United Kingdom food law to ensure food safety.

The Secretary of State has no powers to prevent importation of chicken with added water and proteins. This is not a food safety issue but rather a food labelling issue as meat products that have been injected with hydrolysed animal proteins, water, or other added ingredients can be marketed, legally provided all the necessary information is given to the consumer.

Food labelling rules are agreed at European Union level and prohibit false or misleading labelling. Labelling rules require that certain meat products that resemble a cut or slice of meat must mention in the name of the food any ingredients which originate from a different species to the rest of the meat.

Local authorities ensure that food on sale in the UK complies with these labelling rules. Sampling is routinely carried by local authorities to check for added water and added protein in chicken. Where there is evidence of non-compliance in this respect, enforcement action is taken. The local authorities carry out enforcement action according to the statutory Food Law Code of Practice; this ensures that local authority practice across the UK is consistent with UK / EU food law.

The Government's Food Authenticity research programme develops analytical methods for food enforcement laboratories to help combat misleading labelling and food fraud. The programme is currently working with partners in Europe and the United States of America to produce a method to reliably detect undeclared pork and beef proteins used to retain added water in chicken products. The Commission is aware and supportive of this collaborative project.

Meat Hygiene Service

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what provision he plans to make for funding of the functions formerly undertaken by the Meat Hygiene Service in each of the next three years. [22496]

Anne Milton: The Meat Hygiene Service (MHS) merged with the Food Standards Agency (FSA) on 1 April 2010, the FSA continues to undertake the functions of the MHS.

The FSA is currently developing a new policy for charging for these functions and will be launching a 12 week public consultation later this month detailing its proposals.

The responses to this public consultation will be taken into consideration by the FSA in determining the final policy on charging for these functions. Ministers will also be consulted on the FSA's final policy before it is implemented.

Any increases in charges to the meat industry arising from the new policy will not take effect until January 2012 at the earliest.

Meat: Labelling

Gordon Birtwistle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidelines his Department issues on the preparation and packaging of halal meat. [22728]

Anne Milton: There are no guidelines issued from the Food Standards Agency (FSA) specifically on the 'preparation' and 'packaging' of Halal meat.

Meat intended to be described as Halal must be slaughtered in accordance with United Kingdom food law. This ensures the food is fit for human consumption.

The FSA recently reissued guidance (first published in 2003) for local authority food enforcement officers on Halal food issues to help local authorities make sure that food businesses comply with food labelling rules which are agreed at European Union level and prohibit false or misleading labelling. A copy has been placed in the Library.

Medical Treatments: Exports

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent representations he has received on the adequacy of supply of medicinal products in the NHS; and if he will make a statement; [22335]

(2) what representations he has received on amendment of the Medicines Act 1968 to prevent the export of medicinal products that are in short supply in the UK; and if he will make a statement; [22336]

(3) if he will bring forward legislative proposals in his forthcoming health Bill to prevent the export of medicinal products that are in short supply in the UK. [22337]

Paul Burstow: Ministers have had representations from supply chain organisations, health care professionals and patients, on the issue of medicines supply including issues relating to the Medicines Act. The Department, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency and pharmaceutical supply chain stakeholders are working collaboratively to better understand and mitigate the impact of supply difficulties so that patients receive the medicines they need.

The purpose of the 2010 Health and Social Care Bill is to take forward the changes set out in the Government White Paper, 'Liberating the NHS', which require primary legislation. The free movement of goods, including medicines, between member states of the European Union is a fundamental principle of the single market upon which the European Union is built, and therefore legislation to this end would be inappropriate. The Government will not take forward proposals to prevent the export of any medicinal products.

Mental Health

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 9 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 66W, on mental illness (1) what consultation his Department has undertaken on its new mental health strategy; [23086]

(2) what opportunity *(a)* charities and *(b)* individuals will have to contribute to his new mental health strategy. [23105]

Paul Burstow: Discussions are under way on the strategy and views are being gathered from a range of partners, including professional organisations and voluntary sector groups, as well as individual service users and carers. The Future Vision Coalition, and the Children and Young People's Mental Health Coalition, each representing a large number of organisations, are members of the Mental Health Strategy Programme Board.

The Department consulted widely on New Horizons, the previous Government's mental health strategy and coalition Ministers agreed that they would not rehearse again positions that are already widely understood. Instead, we have engaged with leading organisations and individuals, including people who use services. We are also seeking input specifically on the new strategy from other Government Departments and externally.

Multiple Sclerosis: Drugs

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* primary care trusts permitting the use of Sativex, *(b)* NHS patients receiving Sativex and *(c)* NHS patients refused Sativex in the latest period for which figures are available. [22218]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on the number of patient requests for funding for the use of Sativex which have been approved or refused by their local primary care trust (PCT) is not collected. However, information on the number of prescription items dispensed is held.

Of the 152 PCTs in England, in the period 2009-10, 116 issued prescription items for Sativex were dispensed in the community in the United Kingdom. These are detailed in the following table.

Savitex prescriptions issued by PCTs in England, dispensed in the community, in the UK, 2009-10

PCT	*Number*
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan	1
Barnet	23
Bedfordshire	12
Berkshire East	13
Berkshire West	42
Bexley Care Trust	8
Blackpool	17
Bournemouth and Poole Teaching	12
Brent Teaching	1
Brighton and Hove City	21
Buckinghamshire	24
Calderdale	12
Cambridgeshire	15
Camden	4
Central and Eastern Cheshire	21
Central Lancashire	38
City and Hackney Teaching	12
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	7
County Durham	34
Coventry Teaching	12
Croydon	10
Cumbria Teaching	52
Darlington	3
Derby City	5
Derbyshire County	18
Devon	17
Dorset	48
Dudley	5
Ealing	12
East and North Hertfordshire	11
East Lancashire Teaching	10
East Riding of Yorkshire	2
Eastern and Coastal Kent	23
Gloucestershire	22
Great Yarmouth and Waveney	21
Greenwich Teaching	15
Halton and St Helens	9
Hammersmith and Fulham	5
Hampshire	72
Hastings and Rother	4
Havering	1
Herefordshire	17
Hillingdon	1
Hounslow	2
Hull Teaching	1
Isle of Wight	6
Islington	30
Kensington and Chelsea	33
Kirklees	1
Knowsley	3
Lambeth	13
Leeds	9
Leicester City	4
Leicestershire County and Rutland	19
Lewisham	9
Lincolnshire	26
Luton	8
Manchester	35
Mid Essex	31
Milton Keynes	14
Newcastle	2
Newham	8
Norfolk	34
North East Essex	16

Savitex prescriptions issued by PCTs in England, dispensed, in the community, in the UK, 2009-10

PCT	*Number*
North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus	3
North Lancashire Teaching	48
North Lincolnshire	2
North Staffordshire	22
North Tyneside	11
North Yorkshire and York	73
Northamptonshire Teaching	56
Northumberland Care Trust	38
Nottinghamshire County Teaching	13
Oxfordshire	17
Plymouth Teaching	3
Portsmouth City Teaching	19
Redbridge	2
Richmond and Twickenham	1
Sandwell	8
Sefton	4
Sheffield	25
Shropshire County	14
Solihull Care Trust	5
Somerset	1
South Birmingham	22
South East Essex	20
South Gloucestershire	17
South Staffordshire	32
South Tyneside	13
South West Essex	1
Southampton City	4
Stockport	4
Stoke on Trent	3
Suffolk	22
Sunderland Teaching	5
Surrey	73
Sutton and Merton	1
Swindon	1
Telford and Wrekin	15
Torbay Care Trust	8
Tower Hamlets	15
Trafford	1
Walsall Teaching	9
Waltham Forest	7
Wandsworth Teaching	5
Warrington	2
Warwickshire	7
West Essex	4
West Hertfordshire	35
West Kent	61
West Sussex	52
Western Cheshire	4
Wiltshire	2
Wirral	8
Wolverhampton City	24
Worcestershire	7
Not attributed to a PCT	1
Total	1,866

Source:
Prescribing Analysis and CosT tool (PACT) system.

NHS: Fraud

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of cases relating to NHS staff were investigated by the NHS Counter Fraud Squad in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many such cases resulted in prosecution. [22312]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is in the following tables:

	NHS Counter Fraud Service investigations opened in 2009-10
All investigations	482
Related to staff employed by the national health service	279

	Outcomes of investigations related to staff employed by the NHS
Prosecution and conviction	32
Unsuccessful prosecution	1
Non-criminal sanction or closed with no fraud found	147
Remaining open	99

NHS: Manpower

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of staff employed by the NHS who are provided with private health insurance as part of their remuneration package. [22662]

Mr Simon Burns: Private health insurance does not form part of the national terms and conditions of service for any national health service staff group. NHS employers may offer private health insurance to NHS staff as part of a locally determined reward package; information on this is not held centrally.

NHS: Negligence

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the present level of compensation for medical negligence in maternity cases is; and whether he plans to increase it. [22332]

Mr Simon Burns: The NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA) collects data by specialty. Although maternity is not listed as a specialty, obstetrics specialty data are collected. The total obstetrics damages paid out in 2009-10 was £238,970,055. The full data are available from the fact sheet (No. five) in the publication section of the NHSLA website:

http://www.nhsla.com/NR/rdonlyres/7BDA0851-E6AC-4E50-BAC1-CB32E28932E8/0/NHSLAFactsheet5200910.xls

The worksheet to use is "Payments made 09-10 Obstetrics".

The Government do not currently limit levels of compensation in medical negligence. The amount paid in compensation is determined by the courts, or is based on previous court rulings when settled by the parties concerned.

Organs: Donors

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many organ donors were registered in Dartford constituency *(a)* in each of the last five years and *(b)* on the most recent date for which figures are available. [223[illegible]]

Anne Milton: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Number of registrations on the Organ Donor Register (ODR)

	Total on ODR at beginning of year	New registrations during year	Total on ODR at end of year
Dartford constituency			
2005	12,248	1,471	13,719
2006	13,719	1,473	15,192
2007	15,192	1,282	16,474
2008	16,474	1,323	17,797
2009	17,797	1,385	19,182
2010	19,182	[1]1,290	[2]20,472

[1] Total number of new registrations in Dartford constituency for 2010 as at 3 November 2010.

[2] Total number of people on the Organ Donor Register (ODR) in Dartford constituency as at 3 November 2010.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on NHS charges for treatment of patients with temporomandibular joint dysfunction; and if he will make a statement. [22331]

Mr Simon Burns: Patients presenting at a national health service dental practice would be liable for a band 1 charge of £16.50 for examination, diagnosis and referral if appropriate, unless they were exempt from charges. Any treatment provided in a primary care dental practice would be subject to a further dental charge but, if the patient was referred to a dental or medical specialist in secondary care the treatment would be free of charge.

The full list of charges can be found on the NHS Choices website at:

www.nhs.uk/chq/pages/1781.aspx?categoryid=74&subcategoryid=742

Primary Care Trusts

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which body will have jurisdiction over GP misconduct inquiries following the abolition of primary care trusts. [22514]

Anne Milton: The General Medical Council has responsibility for investigating the fitness to practise of doctors. That will not be affected by the abolition of primary care trusts (PCTs). PCTs have responsibility for managing admission, suspension and removal from Performers Lists. Where suspension or removal is considered but it is not a fitness to practise issue the PCT will initiate an investigation. Detailed arrangements for the management of Performers Lists following the abolition of PCTs are currently being considered by Ministers and departmental officials.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements he plans to put in place for the repayment of money owed by primary care trusts who are in deficit following their abolition. [22517]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department is working with the strategic health authorities to address circumstances where primary care trusts (PCTs) owe money, with the expectation that any deficits will be fully resolved by the end of 2012-13. The issue of PCTs deficits and debt will be covered in further detail in the NHS Operating Framework for 2011-12.

Social Workers: Training

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on continuous professional development for social workers during their working time. [22313]

Paul Burstow: Evidence of continuing professional development (CPD) is a requirement of professional registration and CPD is now an essential component of the regulated social work profession. The Social Work Reform Board will be advising Government on the continuing professional development of social workers as part of its wider programme of reforming social work in spring next year.

Tobacco: Sales

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what options for the permanent display of tobacco in shops which take into account *(a)* public health priorities and *(b)* burdens on business he has considered; and if he will make a statement. [22567]

Anne Milton: The Government are considering all the options around tobacco displays and will ensure that an appropriate balance is struck between public health priorities and burdens on business. It would be premature at this stage to offer details of options being considered.

Tuberculosis: Greater London

Mr Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of drug-resistant tuberculosis have been diagnosed in London in each of the last three years. [23048]

Anne Milton: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Number of cases of drug-resistant tuberculosis in London, 2007-09

	Resistant to any first line drug[1]		
	Number of cases	As a percentage of total cases[2]	Total[2]
2007	162	9.2	1,762
2008	158	8.4	1,871
2009	192	10.5	1,826

[1] Resistant to at least one of the first line anti-tuberculosis drugs (isoniazid, rifampicin, ethambutol and pyrazinamide).

[2] Culture confirmed tuberculosis cases with drug susceptibility testing results for at least isoniazid and rifampicin.

Source:
Health Protection Agency

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Asia-Europe Meeting

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the outcome was of his discussions at the Asia-Europe Meeting on 4 and 5 October 2010. [22017]

The Deputy Prime Minister: The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) provides an excellent opportunity for substantive discussions with key Asian and European partners representing 58% of the world's population and 50% of global gross domestic product.

In discussion at the summit, I set out the argument for global co-operation on fiscal reduction, international institutional reform and business-led growth in open markets during the discussion on global economic governance. I also discussed North Korea, Iran, the middle east and Burma and called for the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. These issues were reflected in the communiqué. The communiqué also sets out a high degree of agreement among the leaders on developing more effective global economic governance and sustainable development, as well as fighting terrorism and the co-ordination of disaster relief efforts.

In the margins of the summit I held bilateral meetings with leaders from Indonesia, Pakistan, Australia, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea and Vietnam. I discussed a broad range of issues including the steps being taken by the UK Government to address the deficit and create growth, the Government's determination to boost trade in general and in particular relations with emerging markets. I also outlined UK expectations ahead of the G20 summit in November.

I also had meetings with European leaders, including those from the European Council and Commission, France, Germany, Spain and the Netherlands. Issues discussed included security, EU budgets and economic stability in the eurozone.

Constituencies

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many representations his Department has received in favour of the proposal *(a)* for a cross-Solent parliamentary constituency and *(b)* that (i) one and (ii) two hon. Members represent the Isle of Wight. [22841]

Mr Harper: The Cabinet Office does not record correspondence in a way that would enable us to readily identify whether the authors were for or against particular issues.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much was spent on hospitality for events he hosted in *(a)* September and *(b)* October 2010. [21794]

The Deputy Prime Minister: The cost of the Deputy Prime Minister's expenditure on hospitality will be made available at the end of the financial year once the Department's resource accounts have been fully audited and laid before Parliament.

Departmental Travel

Ian Austin: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much was spent on his official travel in *(a)* September and *(b)* October 2010. [21867]

The Deputy Prime Minister: The cost of the Deputy Prime Minister's overseas visits is published by the Cabinet Office on a quarterly basis:

http://download.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/transparency/dpm-overseas-travel.csv

The total cost of his domestic travel will be made available at the end of the financial year once the Department's resource accounts have been fully audited and laid before Parliament.

Members: Correspondence

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Rutherglen and Hamilton West of 17 September 2010. [22645]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I apologise for the delay in replying to the hon. Member's letter. My reply was sent on 5 November.

Social Mobility

Jon Trickett: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent assessment he has made of the likely effect on levels of social mobility of the outcomes of the spending review. [22370]

The Deputy Prime Minister: The Government have set out a new programme of work for improving social mobility and will consider the impact of the spending review when developing their cross-governmental social mobility strategy. In particular, the 15 hours per week of free early years education to disadvantaged two-year-olds, the pupil premium and the National Scholarship Scheme are all specifically geared towards targeted support to children from lower income backgrounds. The social mobility strategy will be published this winter.

CABINET OFFICE

Civil Servants: East Ayrshire

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many full-time equivalent civil service jobs are located in *(a)* East Ayrshire and *(b)* Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituency. [22636]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 5 November 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many full-time equivalent Civil Service jobs are located in (a) East Ayrshire and (b) Kilmarnock and Loundoun. (22636)

Civil Service Statistics are published annually by the Office for National Statistics on the National Statistics website. The latest published statistics are for March 2009:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/cs0110.pdf

Statistics for 2010 will be published 19 November 2010.

Figures for the number of civil servants employed in East Ayrshire are attached at Annex A. Figures for Kilmarnock and Loundoun cannot be provided.

Annex A: Civil service employment, number of civil servants in East Ayrshire[1]
All employees

31 March 2009	*Full-time equivalent*
Number of civil servants in East Ayrshire	510

[1] Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10
Source:
Annual Civil Service Employment Survey

Civil Servants: Labour Turnover

John Mann: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the turnover among civil service staff was in each of the last three years. [22864]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 5 November 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning what the turnover among Civil Service staff was in each of the last three years. (22864)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) publishes detailed information on the composition of the Civil Service each year as part of the Annual Civil Service Employment Survey (ACSES). The latest published statistics are for March 2009:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/cs0110.pdf

Civil Service Statistics does not explicitly contain details on the turnover of Civil Service staff. However, the publication does show the number of leavers from the Civil Service each year along with the total number of staff in post. Based on this information, Annex A provides an estimated turnover rate among Civil Service staff in each of the last three years.

Annex A: Civil service employment—civil service turnover 2007, 2008 and 2009[1], all employees

			Headcount
	Leavers	*Average 'staff in post'[2]*	*Estimated turnover rate (percentage)*
2009[3]	39,010	524,790	7.4
2008[3]	50,770	528,490	9.6
2007[4]	45,630	542,690	8.4

[1] Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.
[2] Average 'staff in post' based on number of staff in post at the commencement and end of the survey reference period.
[3] Survey reference date 31 March.
[4] Survey reference date 30 September.
Source:
Annual Civil Service Employment Survey

Departmental Redundancy

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much funding to meet staff redundancy costs was identified in his Department's settlement letter in respect of the comprehensive spending review. [21511]

Mr Maude: All pressures on Departments' budgets were taken into account as part of the spending review and settlements were allocated accordingly. The full costs of redundancies will be met within the Cabinet Office's spending review resource DEL settlement.

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the costs to his Department of staff redundancy in each of the next four years. [21513]

Mr Maude: No estimate of redundancy costs has been made at this stage.

Employment

Ms Buck: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of all non-pensioner households are in employment in each region of the United Kingdom. [22099]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what proportion of all non-pensioner households are in employment in each region of the United Kingdom. 22099.

Percentages of working households by region are published in table 1(iii) of the 'Work and worklessness among households 2010' Statistical Bulletin, and can be accessed via the ONS website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/work0910.pdf

A working household is defined as a household that contains at least one person aged 16 to 64, where all individuals aged 16 and over are in employment. Estimates in this table relate to the period April-June 2010.

Employment: Bexley

Mr Evennett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the number of people in the London borough of Bexley who work in the *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector. [21755]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what estimate has been made of the number of people in the London Borough of Bexley who work in the (a) public and (b) private sector. (21755)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) preferred source of statistics for public sector employment is the Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey (QPSES) and external sources, however figures from this source are not available for parliamentary constituencies.

Alternatively public sector employment statistics for local areas can be calculated from the Annual Population Survey (APS). Individuals in the APS are classified to the public or private sector according to their responses to the survey. Consequently, the classification of an individual's sector may differ from how they would be classified in QPSES statistics.

According to APS figures, in the 12 month period April 2009 to March 2010, 76,000 of the working population in the London Borough of Bexley were employed in the private sector and 28,000 employed in the public sector.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Jobseeker's Allowance: Wolverhampton

Mr McFadden: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people in Wolverhampton South East constituency were on jobseeker's allowance for more than 12 months in the latest period for which figures are available. [21762]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people in Wolverhampton South East constituency were on jobseeker's allowance for more than 12 months in the latest period for which figures are available. (21762)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles the number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system.

There were 1,065 people resident in Wolverhampton South East constituency in receipt of JSA for over 12 months in September 2010.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Members: Correspondence

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when he plans to reply to the letters from the hon. Member for Rutherglen and Hamilton West of 15 July 2010 and 16 August 2010 on the Civil Service Compensation Scheme. [14883]

Mr Maude: I replied to the correspondence from the hon. Member regarding the Civil Service Compensation Scheme on 4 November. I apologise for the delay in responding.

Migration

Mr Carswell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what changes there have been in the net level of migration since May 2010. [22392]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what changes there have been in the net level of immigration since May 2010 (22392).

ONS has not published UK migration statistics for the requested time period. The latest provisional long term international migration estimates relate to the year ending December 2009 and were published in August 2010. These rolling annual estimates are updated on a quarterly basis. Provisional estimates for the year ending March 2010 are due for publication on 25 November.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: Maintenance

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints the Child Support Agency received in each of the last five years; and how many of these were unresolved on the most recent date for which figures are available. [21376]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 9 November 2010:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many complaints the Child Support Agency received in each of the last five years; and how many of these were unresolved at the latest date for which figures are available. [21376]

The table shows the number of complaints received in each of the last five years and the number of uncleared complaints at the end of each period. It is not possible to track individual complaints on a cohort basis.

	Complaints received
2005-06	62,100
2006-07	47,900
2007-08	37,600
2008-09	27,800
2009-10	25,100

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.

2. From April 2007, the Agency introduced a new complaints resolution process, which simplified the process from three stages to two stages.

3. Figures for 2008-09 include complaints received by the Child Support Agency prior to 1 November 2008, and the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission from the 1 November 2008.

In the year to September 2010, over 99% of complaints were fully resolved and/or had a resolution plan in place within 15 days of receipt. There are currently 1,900 uncleared complaints.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Council Tax Benefits

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* pensioner, *(b)* working and *(c)* other households are in receipt of council tax benefit in each local authority area. [21038]

Steve Webb: The information has been placed in the Library.

Departmental Drinking Water

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on bottled water since March 2009. [17545]

Chris Grayling: From March 2009 to August 2010 the Department spent £31,735 on providing bottled water, excluding the cost of water coolers, in its offices. The Department stopped the provision of bought-in bottled water for meetings in July 2008. Since then the Department has been using an on-site system in three large sites, which bottles tap water and uses reusable one litre bottles. Between May 2010 and August 2010, the Department reduced expenditure by 85%.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each of its Ministers in *(a)* September and *(b)* October 2010. [21792]

Chris Grayling: No money has been spent by this Department in relation to hospitality events hosted by its Ministers during September or October 2010.

Departmental Public Expenditure

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what his Department's capital expenditure per head was in *(a)* London and *(b)* the North West in each of the last five years; [21450]

(2) how much and what proportion of his Department's capital expenditure was allocated to *(a)* London and *(b)* the North West in each of the last five financial years. [21460]

Chris Grayling: Departmental capital expenditure per head in *(a)* London and *(b)* the North West in each of the last five years is shown in table 1.

The proportion of Departmental capital expenditure allocated to *(a)* London and *(b)* the North West in each of the last five financial years, and the departmental totals, are shown in table 2.

Table 1

£

2005-06		*2006-07*		*2007-08*		*2008-09*		*2009-10*	
London	*North West*	*London*	*North West*	*London*	*North West*	*London*	*North West*	*London*	*North West*
6.27	7.38	3.31	4.08	1.19	1.51	0.81	1.05	3.58	4.48

Table 2

	2005-06		*2006-07*		*2007-08*		*2008-09*		*2009-10*	
	London	*North West*	*London*	*North West*	*London*	*North West*	*London*	*North West*	*London*	*North West*
	12.9 (%)	13.9 (%)	11.5 (%)	12.9 (%)	10.2 (%)	11.8 (%)	9.7 (%)	11.3 (%)	9.6 (%)	10.9 (%)
Total DWP Capital DEL (£ million)	354	—	207	—	84	—	91	—	275	—
Total DWP Capital AME[1] (£ million)	101	—	185	—	140	—	136	—	171	—

[1] Capital AME figures relate to net lending on the Social Fund

Figures are sourced from the Treasury's Country and Regional Analysis, which is a yearly exercise that departments participate in and which allocates departmental spending to regions based on who benefits from that spending, not necessarily where the spending takes place. The exercise culminates in the publication of the Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses Command Paper (PESA 2010, CM 7890).

Chapters 9 and 10, linked below, contain guidance on what spending is covered and best practice on how departments should allocate spending to regions.

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pespub_pesa10.htm#cra

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pespub_country_regional_analysis.htm

Departmental Redundancy

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how much funding to meet staff redundancy costs was identified in his Department's settlement letter in respect of the Comprehensive Spending Review; [21559]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of redundancies arising from the spending reductions proposed in the Comprehensive Spending Review in respect of *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies and *(c)* other public bodies which are dependent on his Department for funding; [21560]

(3) what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of staff redundancy in each of the next four years. [21561]

Chris Grayling: The impact of the spending review settlement on future staffing levels and the position on the need for any redundancies is complex. While the Department's core budget will be reduced by 26% in real terms over the four years to 2014-15 the Department will receive substantial extra resources to deliver a range of new measures.

This position is likely to result in staffing being reduced in some areas of the Department and increased in others, and at different rates. More detailed work will now be undertaken to allocate the overall settlement to the different parts of our business and assess the resulting staffing levels. This detailed planning will need to take account of likely staff turnover rates and the potential for internal and external redeployment before assessing the need for any redundancies in the Department and its non-departmental public bodies.

All pressures on the Department's budgets were taken into account as part of the spending review and settlements were allocated accordingly. The full costs of any redundancies, should these be unavoidable, will be met from within the Department's departmental expenditure limit (DEL) settlement.

Disability Aids: Care Homes

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department provides guidance to adults living in residential care who have entered into loan agreements to pay for the cost of mobility aids. [22845]

Maria Miller: Disability living allowance is paid to assist people with the extra cost of disability. It is for each individual to decide how to spend their benefit. The Department does not issue any guidance to individuals on how any benefit award should be spent including loan agreements or mobility aids.

Disability Living Allowance

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people receiving disability living allowance who will have the amount of benefit they receive reduced in each of the next three years. [21979]

Maria Miller: The Budget announced that from 2013-14 we would reform disability living allowance by introducing a new, more objective assessment to ensure support is focused on those with greatest need and distributed on a consistent, transparent basis, while continuing to tackle the inequalities that can arise from severe disability. We are developing the new assessment in collaboration with a group of independent health and disability specialists and representatives of disabled people. We intend to run a formal, public consultation exercise on our proposals in the coming months.

The spending review announced that from 2012 we would withdraw payment of, but not entitlement to, the mobility component of disability living allowance to publicly funded residents in care homes once they have been there for 28 days. Local authority contracts with care homes should cover services to meet all a resident's assessed needs, including any assessed mobility needs, so an individual's care support and mobility needs should be met by residential care providers from social care funding. This measure will remove an overlap of public funds while ensuring that resources continue to be targeted at disabled people with the greatest needs.

Disability living allowance mobility component recipients in residential care will continue to retain entitlement and payments will be reinstated should they leave residential care, subject to satisfying the normal conditions of entitlement. We estimate there are currently around 60,000 people in publicly funded care homes who are in receipt of the mobility component of DLA.

Disability Living Allowance: Care Homes

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what consultation he undertook with *(a)* charities, *(b)* third sector organisations and *(c)* other disability organisations prior to his decision to remove the mobility component of disability living allowance for those who live in residential care homes; and if he will make a statement. [22842]

Maria Miller: Local authority contracts with care homes should cover services to meet all a resident's assessed needs, including any assessed mobility needs, so an individual's care support and mobility needs should be met by residential care providers from social care funding. This measure will remove an overlap of public funds while ensuring that resources continue to be targeted at disabled people with the greatest needs.

As part of the spending review all organisations are given the opportunity to contribute to the priorities of the spending review. Across Government, consultation on specific spending review measures was not undertaken. All measures are subject to the parliamentary process, and we are committed to the involvement of charities, third sector organisations and other disability organisations in the ongoing development of policy in these areas.

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the number of people living in residential care in Scotland who receive the mobility component of disability living allowance. [22843]

Maria Miller: Information that estimates the number of disability living allowance claimants in residential care homes in Scotland is not available.

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what impact assessment he has undertaken on the likely effects on those living in residential care of the proposed removal of the mobility component of disability living allowance. [22844]

Maria Miller: The equality impact assessment for removing the mobility component of disability living allowance from state-funded care home residents after 28 days is still being completed and will be published shortly. Consideration was given to the equality impacts of the measure when the proposal was being developed. The measure will largely affect disabled people of working age. We anticipate minimal impact on gender, race, sexual orientation and religion/belief.

Local authority contracts with care homes should cover services to meet all a resident's assessed needs, including any assessed mobility needs, so an individual's care support and mobility needs should be met by residential care providers from social care funding. This measure will remove an overlap of public funds while ensuring that resources continue to be targeted at disabled people with the greatest needs.

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the number of people living in residential care whose mobility costs are met from the public purse who receive the mobility component of disability living allowance. [22846]

Maria Miller: We estimate that approximately 60,000 people who claim disability living allowance and live in residential care currently receive a mobility component in Great Britain. This figure does not include people who are fully self funding their stay in a residential care home.

Local authority contracts with care homes should cover services to meet all a resident's assessed needs, including any assessed mobility needs, so an individual's care support and mobility needs should be met by residential care providers from social care funding. This measure will remove an overlap of public funds while ensuring that resources continue to be targeted at disabled people with the greatest needs.

Employment and Support Allowance

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the time limit on contributory employment and support allowance payments will apply to claimants who find employment within a year but do not retain it. [20650]

Chris Grayling: As part of the spending review announcement, we propose to introduce a time limit of one year for those claiming contributory employment and support allowance and who are placed in the work-related activity group. All other groups claiming employment and support allowance are not affected by this measure.

We are presently considering the detailed rules that will apply to time limiting contributory ESA, including those around linking rules.

Employment Schemes

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has plans to introduce a financial limit on prime contractors' spending on management and administration costs in contracts under the Work Programme. [22906]

Chris Grayling: As part of the procurement process we will be fully sighted on proposed bidder costs including their proposed management and administration costs. The Department will not be seeking to limit or cap any provider's spending as this may constrain delivery ability/options available to Prime Providers. However, we will be undertaking a detailed evaluation process for each provider's proposal so that we can ensure that contracts are awarded on a value for money basis.

Housing Benefit: Argyll and Bute

Mr Reid: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many tenants in Argyll and Bute broad rental market area were paid local housing allowance in each of the last 12 months; and how much was paid to such tenants in that allowance in each such year. [22847]

Steve Webb: The information is not available at the broad rental market area level. The information for Argyll and Bute local authority is shown in the table.

Housing benefit recipients in Argyll and Bute local authority

	Housing benefit recipients	*Of which, assessed under the local housing allowance arrangements*
August 2009	6,280	1,480
September 2009	6,270	1,470
October 2009	6,260	1,470
November 2009	6,250	1,480
December 2009	6,310	1,500
January 2010	6,370	1,530
February 2010	6,430	1,560
March 2010	6,460	1,590
April 2010	6,490	1,600
May 2010	6,480	1,570
June 2010	6,440	1,560
July 2010	6,430	1,560

Source:
Single Housing Benefit Extract. Figures reported are as at the second Thursday of the month, and are rounded to the nearest 10 recipients.

Based on the local authority final subsidy returns for the financial year 2009-10, the local housing allowance expenditure in Argyll and Bute was £6,217,918.

Housing Benefit: Landlords

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to ensure that the full monetary value of housing benefit paid to tenants is received by landlords; and if he will make a statement. [20827]

Steve Webb: Housing benefit in the private rented sector is normally paid to the tenant but there are safeguards in place to ensure that they do not lose their tenancy if they fall, or are at risk of falling, into arrears.

If the tenant has rent arrears of eight weeks or more the local authority should make payments to the landlord unless it is in the tenant's overriding interest not to do so.

For tenants whose benefit is assessed according to the local housing allowance rules, the local authority can make payments to the landlord if it considers the customer is unable or unlikely to manage their rental payments.

Other tenants in the private rented sector and those who have tenancies with registered social landlords can choose to have their benefit paid to the landlord. The local authority can also decide to make payment to the landlord if they consider it to be in the customer's best interests.

For local authority tenants housing benefit takes the form of a rebate against their rent account.

Industrial Health and Safety

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what criteria are used to make the assessment of a low hazard business in respect of health and safety. [22346]

Chris Grayling: Lord Young's report to the Prime Minister of the operation of health and safety laws and the growth of the compensation culture includes recommendations aimed at low hazard business. It points to offices, shops and classrooms as examples of workplaces which can be of lower risk on the basis that the risk of injury or death is minimal. The latest figures show that only around 3% of all workplace injuries in Great Britain involve offices and that no office workers died as a result of accidents at work in 2009.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has developed guidance and example risk assessments primarily aimed at lower risk businesses. HSE has been guided by the definition of risk as a concept embodying a combination of likelihood and consequence. Therefore, low risk activities are those that have a low likelihood and minor consequences.

Mental Health

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of recommendations relevant to his Department's policy responsibilities contained in the Foresight report on Mental Capacity and Well-Being by the Government Office for Science; if he will ensure that his Department takes steps to promote well-being; if he will ensure that his Department's policy development process takes account of psychological research into subjective well-being; and if he will make a statement. [22909]

Chris Grayling: The expertise and vision of the Foresight report has informed our approach to health and work. The relationship between health, work and well-being is right at the heart of the welfare reforms we are implementing, which is why we have designed the new Work Programme to allow employment support providers to tailor help to individual needs, and foster self efficacy and mental capital.

Because promoting and protecting well-being goes beyond the remit of one Department, DWP also contributes to a cross-Government programme of action to promote well-being and improve health at work. It is in all of our interests to stop people falling out of work and onto benefits through ill health. Failure to act results in heavy costs to individuals, employers, the economy and society and can contribute to working-age ill health, avoidable sickness absence and job loss through ill health.

As announced in the June Budget, the Cabinet Office and ONS are taking work on measuring societal well-being forward—in particular regarding the lessons for the UK from the Stiglitz, Sen and Fenoussi report. We have in the past supported the use of subjective well-being measures in research on deprivation and its impact on individual. The DWP is working closely with other Departments on exploring how to take account of subjective well-being in specific policy interventions and measuring overall economic performance.

National Insurance

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individual national insurance numbers there are. [22048]

Chris Grayling: The latest available figures (2010) show a total of 82.13 million national insurance number (NINo) records on the Department's Customer Information System (CIS). These consist of:

62.98 million Live NINo Accounts

19.15 million NINo Accounts with a date of death applied.

Note:

The figures provided are from the Customer Information (Live) Database in April 2010 and are subject to rounding. The figures are Management Information (MI) collected for the purpose of managing DWP Business, and therefore have not been subjected to the rigorous quality assurance that is applied to DWP official statistics.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to his Department's publication Tackling Fraud and Error in the Benefit and Tax Credits Systems, October 2010, what factors other than previous convictions for fraud would lead to an application for a benefit being considered particularly at risk of being fraudulent or in error. [22013]

Chris Grayling: The Department's new joint strategy with HMRC for tackling welfare fraud and error contains a wide range of measures to: prevent fraud and error from entering the system in the first place; detect and correct mistakes where they do happen; deliver tough punishments for those who defraud the system; and deter those who would try to abuse the system in the future.

With regard to factors other than previous convictions for fraud which could identify cases at risk of being fraudulent or in error, we will develop these through analysis of common characteristics in past fraud and error cases alongside application of the most effective risk profiling techniques used within and outside Government.

Veterinary Services: Regulation

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance his Department issues on the application of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 to veterinary surgeons working in *(a)* pig and poultry abattoirs and *(b)* meat cutting plants. [22497]

Chris Grayling: The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has published generic guidance, both written and web-based, on the application of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations and on a proportionate approach to managing health and safety risks.

HSE has worked closely with a number of organisations representing the veterinary profession in recent years, including the British Veterinary Association (BVA), including by:

Providing speakers on a wide-range of relevant health and safety topics for training courses;

Assisting in developing a health and safety manual for the veterinary profession; and

Writing articles on issues such as zoonoses, cattle handling and risks to pregnant workers for the BVA's journal 'In Practice'.

HSE has also contributed to the development of guidance by other organisations relevant to the work of veterinary surgeons, such as the British Meat Processors Association's Guidance Notes on 'Safety when handling cattle in slaughterhouses', 'Q fever' and 'Personal protective equipment in the meat industry'.

Vocational Training: Merseyside

Mr George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many unemployed people received employment training and advice from contracted service providers in each local authority area in the Merseyside sub-region in each of the last five years; and how many of these found employment within *(a)* one month, *(b)* three months and *(c)* six months of receiving such services in each such year. [20012]

Chris Grayling: Information to answer the full request is not available. The Department offers a range of contracted employment provision to support jobseekers in finding employment. It is not possible to identify participants on all of the contracted provision offered by the Department due to the wide range of support available and the ways in which starts to these programmes have been recorded. However, we can identify individuals who have been recorded by DWP computer systems as participating on contracted provision offered through the following schemes: New Deal for Young People, New Deal for the Long Term Unemployed, Private Sector-Led New Deal, Employment Zones, Flexible New Deal, Programme Centres, Jobcentre Plus Support Contracts, Backing Young Britain, Young Person's Guarantee and the 6 month offer. These represent the majority of provision aimed specifically at jobseekers.

The information can be found in the following tables:

Table 1: Number of people that received at least one spell of employment training or advice from a contracted service provider in each of the Merseyside local authorities during each of the last five years

	Knowsley	*Liverpool*	*St Helens*	*Sefton*	*Wirral*
2006	920	4,320	780	1,110	1,800
2007	1,100	5,540	1,110	1,350	2,150
2008	1,190	5,280	1,020	1,480	2,150
2009	1,910	7,270	1,730	2,320	3,000
2010[1]	[1]2,200	[1]7,240	[1]2,040	[1]2,370	[1]3,300

Table 1: Number of people that received at least one spell of employment training or advice from a contracted service provider in each of the Merseyside local authorities during each of the last five years

[1] Data for 2010 are partial. Some data is complete to August 2010 while the remainder is complete to the end of September 2010.

Notes:

1. Geographies are based on individuals' latest known address rather than their address at the point of entry to provision.
2. If an individual attended more than one type of contracted provision in any year, they are only counted once.
3. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
4. Figures include contracted provision available through the following schemes: New Deal for Young People, New Deal for the Long Term Unemployed, Private Sector-Led New Deal, Employment Zones, Flexible New Deal, Programme Centres, Jobcentre Plus Support Contracts, Backing Young Britain, Young Person's Guarantee and the six month offer.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Delivery Directorate: New Deal for Young People database August 2010, New Deal for Long Term Unemployed database August 2010, Employment Zones database August 2010, Opportunity Types database September 2010

Tables 2: Of those who started at least one spell of contracted employment provision, the number who found employment within one month, three months and six months of first start on provision in each of the last five years

Table 2a: Knowsley

Started employment	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*[1]2010*
Within one month of first provision start	60	100	110	110	[1]160
Within three months of first provision start	170	240	280	370	[1]370
Within six months of first provision start	290	390	440	620	[1]530

Table 2b: Liverpool

Started employment	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*[1]2010*
Within one month of first provision start	170	270	260	350	[1]450
Within three months of first provision start	600	870	870	1,220	[1]1,060
Within six months of first provision start	1,070	1,580	1,490	2,080	[1]1,560

Table 2c: St Helens

Started employment	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*[1]2010*
Within one month of first provision start	40	70	60	100	[1]110
Within three months of first provision start	130	260	190	320	[1]300
Within six months of first provision start	210	430	340	540	[1]440

Table 2d: Sefton

Started employment	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*[1]2010*
Within one month of first provision start	40	90	90	160	[1]150
Within three months of first provision start	160	250	260	460	[1]340
Within six months of first provision start	290	440	470	760	[1]500

Table 2: Wirral

Started employment	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*[1]2010*
Within one month of first provision start	120	140	130	160	[1]180

Table 2e: Wirral

Started employment	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*[1]2010*
Within three months of first provision start	300	380	410	500	[1]470
Within six months of first provision start	490	660	640	860	[1]680

[1] Data for 2010 are only partially complete. Some employment programme data is complete to August 2010 while the remainder is complete to the end of September 2010. P45 records may be included in the WPLS several months after a job actually started, as such, figures for employment in 2010 should be treated as incomplete.

Notes:

1. Employment starts are derived from P45/P46 records within the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study. As such, employment attracting earnings below the income tax threshold, and self employment are not included. In some cases, incomplete records mean that we are unable to match individuals to employment spells.
2. Volumes of P45s contained in the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study have altered over time due to changes to HMRC processes. These may drive underlying trends year-on-year.
3. If an individual attended more than one type of contracted provision in any year, employment records were only sought which matched to the first time they started contracted employment provision within that year.
4. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
5. Figures include contracted provision available through the following schemes: New Deal for Young People, New Deal for the Long Term Unemployed, Private Sector-Led New Deal, Employment Zones, Flexible New Deal, Programme Centres, Jobcentre Plus Support Contracts, Backing Young Britain, Young Person's Guarantee and the six month offer.
6. Geographies are based on individuals' latest known address rather than their address at the point of entry to provision.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Delivery Directorate: New Deal for Young People database August 2010, New Deal for Long Term Unemployed database August 2010, Employment Zones database August 2010, Opportunity Types database September 2010, Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study, September 2010

Welfare State: Reform

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what disability impact assessment he plans to undertake of the proposals for welfare reforms contained in the spending review. [21770]

Maria Miller: The Government are strongly committed to the principle of promoting equality. We take our duty to consider the impact of policy decisions on different groups of people very seriously.

The Department for Work and Pensions assesses the equality impacts of any new policies or changes to existing policies and practice. To that end, there is a well established set of processes to help policy makers develop equality impact assessments based on a strong evidence base.

The welfare reform measures contained in the spending review that require primary legislation will be included in the forthcoming welfare reform Bill. Alongside the publication of the Bill my Department will publish a full equality impact assessment of its contents, which will include an assessment of the impact of the Bill measures on disabled people.

EDUCATION

Academies

James Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent representations he has received on enabling secondary schools rated as good by Ofsted to apply for academy status. [18640]

Mr Gibb: We have received a great deal of interest from schools in converting to become an academy. The Department's website contains a list of schools, both those judged outstanding by Ofsted and otherwise, which have registered their interest. Currently, only schools judged outstanding overall can apply, but we are keen to extend the benefit of academy status to many more schools. An announcement will be made shortly about when the next group of schools will be invited to apply.

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) in respect of which Building Schools for the Future projects classified as *(a)* stopped and *(b)* under discussion damage has been caused to existing school buildings as a result of (i) fire and (ii) flooding in the last 24 months; [8496]

(2) in respect of which Building Schools for the Future projects classified as *(a)* stopped and *(b)* under discussion one or more (i) classrooms, (ii) dining facilities, (iii) staff common rooms and (iv) offices in the school are housed in temporary or pre-fabricated accommodation. [8497]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 14 July 2010]:* This information is not held centrally, nor is it readily available, and to gather it would require a detailed review by Partnerships for Schools (PfS) of each local authority's plans for its Building Schools for the Future investment. It would not be possible for PfS to gather this information in a form that is fully comprehensive without incurring disproportionate cost. We are aware that Campsmount Technology College in Doncaster and Carleton High School in Wakefield, were both damaged by fire. Both of these schools will no longer proceed under the Building Schools for the Future programme. However, the independent Capital Review team is working with building companies on a pilot proposal to rebuild Campsmount Technology College in Doncaster. There is a good prospect that the new school could be rebuilt ahead of the original schedule as the accelerated procurement timetable has been met, and cost savings are being identified by the private sector through the bidding process.

Children in Care

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many section 51 (Children Act 1989) refuge beds are available for children under the age of 16 years. [21427]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 4 November 2010]:* Local authorities are responsible for deciding on the provision of refuge beds in the light of local need. We do not collect information centrally on the number of beds available.

Children: Databases

Mr David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what function the reformed ContactPoint database will have in respect of vulnerable children which is not undertaken by the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre; and what steps he plans to take to ensure that only details of children already identified as being at risk are stored on the database. [20900]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 1 November 2010]:* In line with our longstanding policy commitment, ContactPoint was switched off on 6 August 2010. The database is in the process of being permanently decommissioned and the data securely destroyed. Accordingly, the ContactPoint database is not being reformed. We are however exploring the feasibility of an alternative approach to help key professionals support and protect our most vulnerable children, particularly when these children move areas or access services in more than one area. Wherever practicable, we will seek to re-use investment made to date. We will provide an update in due course.

Children: Human Trafficking

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what account his Department takes of the requirements of the Council of Europe Convention on Human Trafficking in determining the level of support provided to guardians of child victims of human trafficking. [21739]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 4 November 2010]:* Responsibility for the care, protection and accommodation of child trafficking victims rests with local authorities under their duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children, and in accordance with the Council of Europe Convention on Human Trafficking. Separated and vulnerable children from abroad have the same entitlements as UK born or resident children.

Where a child is assessed as trafficked and becomes looked after by a local authority, a social worker will be responsible for putting in place an individualised care plan covering the full range of the child's needs. The social worker will also make an assessment of the type of placement which best matches the needs of the child, including the need to safeguard them from contact with traffickers.

Colchester Academy

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to make an announcement on funding for a new building for the Colchester Academy, formerly Sir Charles Lucas Arts College. [21191]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 2 November 2010]:* The Secretary of State is currently reviewing the capital funding position for Colchester Academy and aims to confirm this no later than the end of this year.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many officials in his Department have been *(a)* subject to disciplinary action, *(b)* removed from post, *(c)* transferred to another position and *(d)* dismissed for matters relating to their (i) disciplinary record and (ii) performance in each year since 1997. [18751]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education was formed on 12 May 2010. The information covers its predecessors, The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and the Department for Education and Skills (DfES).

Staff may be the subject of formal disciplinary and capability procedures (i) without the imposition of any penalty or (ii) with the imposition of a penalty (such as a written warning, downgrading, and dismissal). Data held on formal disciplinary action taken by the Department against its employees is available from 2005/06 and is set out as follows. Information before this time can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Information where the number of employees is less than five has been suppressed on the grounds of confidentiality.

Discipline (misconduct and poor attendance)

	Number of employees subject to formal disciplinary action	*Number of employees removed from post due to disciplinary action*	*Number of employees transferred to another position due to disciplinary action*	*Number of employees dismissed from the Department due to disciplinary action*
2009-10	6	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
2008-09	5	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
2007-08	9	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
2006-07	7	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
2005-06	9	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—

[1] Fewer than 5.

Capability (poor performance)

	Number of employees subject to formal capability action	*Number of employees removed from post due to capability action*	*Number of employees transferred to another position due to capability action*	*Number of employees dismissed from the Department due to capability action*
2009-10	5	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
2008-09	11	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
2007-08	13	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
2006-07	12	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
2005-06	6	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—

[1] Fewer than 5

Departmental Redundancy Pay

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what severance payments have been paid to *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* special advisers in his Department who left office after the last general election. [15403]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 16 September 2010]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office on 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 55W.

The Government are committed to publishing annually the total cost of special advisers in the form of a written ministerial statement by the Prime Minister. The total cost of severance paid out to special advisers who left office after the last general election will be published in due course.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what eligibility criteria he plans to use for the education maintenance allowance, or its replacement, in 2011-12; and whether the criteria will vary depending on the number of children in a family unit. [20049]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 28 October 2010]:* The education maintenance allowance scheme will close at the end of the 2010/11 Academic Year and no new applications will be processed from 1 January 2011. It will be replaced by an enhanced Discretionary Learner Support Fund. Decisions about which young people should receive financial support from the Discretionary Learner Support Fund will be made by schools, colleges and training providers, who are in a better position than Government to determine the needs of individual students. They will target support to those young people who most need it to continue in learning.

Chris Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what changes he plans to make to the operation of education maintenance allowance in 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [20145]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 28 October 2010]:* No new applications for the education maintenance allowance will be processed from 1 January 2011 and the scheme will close at the end of the 2010/11 academic year.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Kingston Upon Thames

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of 16 to 18-year-olds in receipt of education maintenance allowance in Kingston upon Hull East constituency who will no longer receive payments as a result of the outcome of the comprehensive spending review. [21192]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 2 November 2010]:* This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member for Kingston upon Hull East with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Rotherham

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many students normally resident in Rotherham receive education maintenance allowance. [18427]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) which operates the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener the YPLA's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member for Rotherham with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Libraries.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Sunderland

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children in *(a)* Houghton and Sunderland South constituency and *(b)* Sunderland claimed education maintenance allowance in each year for which figures are available. [22907]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener the YPLA's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member for Houghton and Sunderland South with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Education: Internet

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on online schooling communities; and if he will make a statement. [18657]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 21 October 2010]:* The Department has no specific policy on online virtual schooling, but recognises that it can contribute to pupils' education.

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment his Department has made of the merits of online schooling communities; and if he will make a statement. [18840]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 21 October 2010]:* Models of Innovation in Learning Online was a Government funded evaluation from 2008. The main finding from this was that students are positive about online education but not enthusiastic about schooling that is entirely based online.

Educational Psychology

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what statutory duties educational psychologists perform for local authorities. [21353]

Sarah Teather: Local authorities are required by statute to seek the written advice of an educational psychologist in order to make an assessment of a child's special educational needs.

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department's review of special educational needs services will include training and funding arrangements for educational psychologists; and if he will make a statement. [21355]

Sarah Teather: Educational psychologists make an extremely important contribution to services for children and families. They play an important part in the special educational needs system, in relation to the existing statementing process and also in relation to the support for parents and schools.

We will consider the role of educational psychologists, and the arrangements for funding their training, within the context of the forthcoming Green Paper on special educational needs and the Government spending review.

Free School Meals: Tottenham

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of pupils at each *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school in Tottenham constituency is eligible for free school meals. [20596]

Mr Gibb: The requested information is shown in the table.

Maintained primary[1] and state-funded secondary[1, 2] schools: school meal arrangements[3, 4] as at January 2010: Schools in Tottenham parliamentary constituency

School name	*Phase of education*	*Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*
Belmont Junior School	Primary	26.6
Belmont Infant School	Primary	25.6
Coleraine Park Primary School	Primary	36.5
Devonshire Hill Primary School	Primary	44.3
Earlsmead Primary School	Primary	45.8
Lancasterian Primary School	Primary	45.7
South Haringey Junior School	Primary	34.9
South Haringey Infant and Nursery School	Primary	32.6
Stamford Hill Primary School	Primary	40.7
West Green Primary School	Primary	48.6
Tiverton Primary School	Primary	36.6
Welbourne Primary School	Primary	39.7
Lea Valley Primary School	Primary	53.8
Ferry Lane Primary School	Primary	36.1
Crowland Primary School	Primary	29.4
Broadwater Farm Primary School	Primary	45.8
Bruce Grove Primary School	Primary	41.4
Risley Avenue Primary School	Primary	52.9
Downhills Primary School	Primary	45.3
Seven Sisters Primary School	Primary	33.1
Mulberry Primary School	Primary	43.4
St Paul's and All Hallows C of E Infant School	Primary	25.2
The Green C of E Primary School	Primary	31.7
St Ann's C of E Primary School	Primary	32.3
St Paul's and All Hallows C of E Junior School	Primary	23.5
St Francis de Sales RC Junior School	Primary	31.8
St Ignatius RC Primary School	Primary	32.2
St Mary's Priory RC Junior School	Primary	30.6
St Mary's Priory RC Infant School	Primary	30.6
St Francis de Sales RC Infant School	Primary	34.7
St John Vianney RC Primary School	Primary	25.5
Chestnuts Primary School	Primary	27.4
North Haringey Primary School	Primary	40.7
Northumberland Park Community School	Secondary	53.2
Gladesmore Community School	Secondary	63.1
Park View Academy	Secondary	39.0
Haringey Sixth Form Centre	Secondary	[5]—
The John Loughborough School	Secondary	22.9

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[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] There are no city technology colleges or academies in Tottenham parliamentary constituency.

[3] Includes sole and dual main registrations.

[4] Pupils eligible for free school meals who have full time attendanceand are aged 15 or under, or pupils who have part-time attendance and are aged between five and 15.

[5] Not applicable. This school has no pupils eligible for free school meals who have full-time attendance and are aged 15 or under, or pupils who have part-time attendance and are aged between five and 15.

Source:
School Census

Free Schools

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many applications to open free schools in the academic years *(a)* 2011/12 and *(b)* 2012/13 his Department has received; what proportion of such applications are from religious and faith-based group; and if he will make a statement. [22454]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 8 November 2010]:* The Department for Education has received over 130 free school proposals from a variety of different proposers, including religious and faith-based groups. Of these, most are aiming to open in September 2011. Others give a range of hoped for opening dates, so a precise breakdown is not possible. On 5 November, the names of the first 25 Free School proposals approved to progress to the business case and plan stage were published on the Free Schools website. Of these, eight have a religious dimension, although they have not necessarily been proposed by faith groups.

GCE A-level

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many students identified as *(a)* Black African, *(b)* Black Caribbean, *(c)* Black Other and *(d)* White British gained (i) three A* grades or more, (ii) three A grades or more and (iii) 2 A and 1 B grade or more at A-level in each year since 1999; [170[illegible]6]

(2) when he plans to answer question 17076, on A-level results, tabled on 8 October 2010. [20887]

Mr Gibb: A* grades for A-levels were first awarded in 2010 and these results have not yet been matched to pupil characteristics and so are not provided. The figures requested for three A grades or more and two A and one B grade or more are in the following tables. Figures matching A-level attainment in year 13 to ethnicity, recorded in year 11, are not readily available prior to 2005.

Year 13 students[1] from selected ethnic groups[2] who achieved three A grades or more at A-level, 2005 to 2009

	Black African		*Black Caribbean*		*Black Other*		*White British*	
	Number achieving	*Number of A-level students*	*Number achieving*	*Number of A-level students*	*Number achieving*	*Number of A-level students*	*Number achieving*	*Number of A-level students*
2005	74	1,728	18	1,060	11	326	8,742	105,348
2006	84	1,798	24	1,089	13	352	9,740	107,629
2007	157	3,513	47	1,969	24	636	14,260	153,911
2008	181	4,037	52	2,138	22	737	15,259	158,561
2009	209	4,469	51	2,147	32	732	15,885	161,505

Source:
National Pupil Database.

Year 13 students[1] from selected ethnic groups[2] who achieved two A and one B grade or more at A-level, 2005 to 2009

	Black African		*Black Caribbean*		*Black Other*		*White British*	
	Number achieving	*Number of A-level students*	*Number achieving*	*Number of A-level students*	*Number achieving*	*Number of A-level students*	*Number achieving*	*Number of A-level students*
2005	116	1,728	40	1,060	22	326	15,044	105,348
2006	159	1,798	56	1,089	21	352	16,589	107,629
2007	293	3,513	101	1,969	51	636	24,227	153,911
2008	320	4,037	122	2,138	53	737	25,854	158,561
2009	379	4,469	143	2,147	61	732	27,144	161,505

[1] Students in maintained schools and FE colleges are included.
[2] Ethnicity as recorded for those who were in maintained schools in year 11.
Source:
National Pupil Database.

New Schools Network

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what representations his Department has received from applicants to the free schools programme on the *(a)* quality and *(b)* timeliness of the service provided by the New Schools Network; and if he will make a statement. [22452]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 8 November 2010]*: The Department for Education has received positive feedback about the New Schools Network from free school proposers, in relation to both the quality and timeliness of the service it provides.

Ofsted: Inspections

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what steps he has taken to reduce the level of administration associated with Ofsted inspections; [18591]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of Ofsted inspections as a means of evaluating education outcomes. [18592]

Mr Gibb: Inspection is most effective where it is sharply focused on core issues and targeted at the schools, colleges and other children's services in most need of improvement. We intend, through our reforms, to reduce inspection related burdens and enhance the contribution that inspection makes to accountability and improvement. In terms of school inspection, we plan to streamline and re-focus arrangements around the core areas of achievement; teaching; leadership; and behaviour and safety, and free up outstanding schools from routine inspection. We have already signalled that the self-evaluation form, which presents a significant administrative burden on schools, will be removed from the end of this academic year. Further details on this programme of reform will be provided in the forthcoming education White Paper.

Primary Education: Teachers

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of *(a)* recruitment levels and *(b)* retention rates of male primary school teachers in each year since 2000. [21383]

Tim Loughton: Tables 1 and 2 give the numbers of full and part-time male entrants to local authority maintained primary (and nursery) schools in each year since 2000[1].

Table 3 shows the retention rates of male primary (and nursery) school teachers in local authority maintained schools in England. The retention rates are based on the percentage of teachers entering service, in maintained nursery and primary schools, in a particular year who are still in service a number of years later.

Information on the recruitment and retention of teachers is available from the Database of Teacher Records (DTR). Please note that the DTR is maintained primarily for the administration of teachers' pensions. Although all teachers should be included on the DTR, some records are missing; in particular, part-time teachers are undercounted by around 15%. The most recent data is for the year 2009 as the DTR has a one year time lag.

[1] This information is published annually in the School Workforce in England statistical first release, additional table C1.

Table 1: Full-time qualified teacher entrants[1] in local authority maintained nursery and primary schools by gender and type of flow: Year 31 March 2000/01 to 31 March 2008-09. Coverage: England. Teacher flows (inflow)

	199900[1]	2000-01[1]	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007/08	2008-09
Nursery and primary men										
Newly qualified entrants[2]	1,100	900	1,010	1,110	1,240	1,250	1,400	1,420	1,370	1,390
New to maintained sector[3]	300	400	380	300	310	320	340	370	470	480
Returner to maintained sector[4]	400	600	650	500	470	540	390	450	380	400
Total entrants[5,6]	1,800	1,900	2,040	1,910	2,010	2,110	2,130	2,240	2,220	2,270
Women										
Newly qualified entrants[2]	8,000	7,100	7,650	8,000	8,230	7,990	8,920	8,700	8,730	8,810
New to maintained sector3	2,100	2,700	2,660	2,010	2,050	2,360	2,480	2,510	3,030	3,360
Returner to maintained sector4	2,300	3,300	3,560	3,000	2,480	3,070	2,040	2,380	1,860	2,090
Total entrants[5,6]	12,500	13,200	13,880	13,010	12,760	13,430	13,440	13,590	13,610	14,260

[1] Rounded to the nearest 10 except in 1999/00 and 2000/01 where totals have been rounded to the nearest 100.

[2] Teacher qualified in the previous year.

[3]. Teacher has no known service in the English maintained schools sector, and qualified before the previous year.

[4] Teacher was not in service in the previous March, but has previous service in the English maintained schools sector.

[5] Does not include joiners from part-time service. It does include joiners from the FE, HE and independent sectors and Wales.

[6] Totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts because of rounding.

Note:

2008-09 provisional estimates.

Source:

Database of Teacher Records

Table 2: Part-time[1] qualified teacher entrants[2] in local authority maintained nursery and primary schools by gender and type of flow: Year: 31 March 2000/01 to 31 March 2008/09. Coverage: England teacher flows (inflow)

	1999/00[1]	2000/01[1]	2001/02	2002/0	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/97	2007-08	2008-09
Nursery and Primary										
Men										
Newly qualified entrants[3]		—	10	10	30	40	50	50	30	40
New to maintained sector[4]	100	100	80	80	100	110	170	170	200	190
Returner to maintained sector[5]	100	200	190	140	160	160	160	150	160	100
Total entrants[6,7]	200	300	280	230	280	310	370	370	390	330
Women										
Newly qualified entrants	300	200	210	260	430	430	520	480	540	490
New to maintained sector[4]	1,400	1,700	1,650	1,640	2,070	2,140	2,740	2,850	3,070	3,060
Returner to maintained sector[5]	1,900	2,500	2,640	1,930	1,990	2,600	2,080	1,830	1,600	1,610
Total entrants[6,7]	3,500	4,400	4,510	3,830	4,490	5,160	5,340	5,170	5,210	5,160

[1] 10-20% of part-time teachers may not be included in the data.
[2] Rounded to the nearest 10 except in 1999/00 and 2000/01 where totals have been rounded to the nearest 100.
[3] Teacher qualified in the previous year.
[4] Teacher has no known service in the English maintained schools sector, and qualified before the previous year.
[5] Teacher was not in service in the previous March, but has previous service in the English maintained schools sector.
[6] Does not include joiners from full-time service. It does include joiners from the FE, HE and independent sectors and Wales.
[7] Totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts because of rounding.
Negligible
Note:
2008-09 provisional estimates.
'—' = Negligible
Source:
Database of Teacher Records

Table 3: Percentage of full and part-time[1] qualified male teachers who entered service[2] (in maintained nursery and primary schools) in a particular year and who were still teaching a number of years later

Year entered service[3]	*Total number of entrants*[2]	*Percentage of teachers in regular service in the maintained schools sector in England after*								
		1 year	*2 years*	*3 years*	*4 years*	*5 years*	*6 years*	*7 years*	*8 years*	*9 years*
1999-2000	2,100	83	75	69	65	61	59	57	56	52
2000-01	2,190	83	74	68	63	60	57	55	53	
2001-02	2,400	82	74	66	62	59	57	55		
2002-03	2,220	82	73	68	64	61	57		—	—
2003-04	2,410	83	74	67	64	62				
2004-05	2,420	84	77	72	67	—	—	—	—	
2005-06	2,630	80	76	68	—	—	—	—	—	
2006-07	2,610	83	76	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2007-08	2,610	81	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2008-09	2,600	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Average percentage of full and part-time teachers[4] who were still in service a number of years after they entered service	—	82	75	69	65	62	59	57	56	52

[1] Teachers in part-time service are under-recorded on the DTR by between 10 and 20%.
[2] Includes all types of entrants: newly qualified entrants (qualified during the previous academic year), new to the maintained sector (teachers qualified before the previous year who have no known service in the maintained sector) and returners to the maintained sector (teachers who were not in service in the previous year, but have previous service in the maintained sector).
[3] Financial year during which the teachers entered service.
[4] To calculate the average, information from the last three years was used where possible. (The averages for eight and nine years in service were calculated using the last two years and one year respectively).
Notes:
1. The length of service may not have been continuous; for example, not all of those shown as teaching eight years after entering service in 2000-01 may have taught continuously for eight years, some may have taken periods of time outside of the maintained sector.
2. 2007-08 and 2008-09 are provisional; entrant numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
Database of Teacher Records (DTR)

Pupil Exclusions: Violence

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what number and proportion of fixed-period exclusions in maintained schools were for acts of violence in each year since 1997. [20227]

Mr Gibb: The available data, on the number and proportion of fixed period exclusions for physical assault against both pupils and adults, are shown in the table.

Reasons for exclusion were collected for the first time for the school year 2003/04 via the Termly Exclusions Survey. In 2005/06 data were collected via the School Census for secondary schools only. From 2006/07 the collection was extended to include primary and special schools.

Any violence against school staff is totally unacceptable. Head teachers may decide that permanent exclusion is appropriate in some cases, but opt to use a fixed-term exclusion or other disciplinary penalty for less major incidents such as obstruction or jostling.

Maintained primary, state-funded secondary and special schools[1-3]*: Number and proportion of fixed period exclusions that were for physical assault—England*

	Physical assault against a pupil		*Physical assault against an adult*		*Total physical assaults against a pupil or an adult*		*Total exclusions (any reasons)*	
	Number of fixed period exclusions	*Percentage of all fixed period exclusions*[4]	*Number of fixed period exclusions*	*Percentage of all fixed period exclusions*[4]	*Number of fixed period exclusions*	*Percentage of all fixed period exclusions*[4]	*Number of fixed period exclusions*	*Percentage of all fixed period exclusions*[4]
2003/04	69,020	20.0	15,990	4.6	85,010	24.7	344,510	100
2004/05	80,700	20.7	18,480	4.7	99,180	25.5	389,560	100
2005/06	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2006/07	79,130	18.6	18,530	4.4	97,660	23.0	425,280	100
2007/08	71,280	18.6	17,810	4.6	89,100	23.2	383,520	100

Maintained primary, state-funded secondary and special schools[1, 2, 3]: Number and proportion of fixed period exclusions that were for physical assault—England

	Physical assault against a pupil		Physical assault against an adult		Total physical assaults against a pupil or an adult		Total exclusions (any reasons)	
	Number of fixed period exclusions	Percentage of all fixed period exclusions[4]	Number of fixed period exclusions	Percentage of all fixed period exclusions[4]	Number of fixed period exclusions	Percentage of all fixed period exclusions[4]	Number of fixed period exclusions	Percentage of all fixed period exclusions[4]
2008/09	69,020	19.0	17,120	4.7	86,130	23.7	362,870	100

Comparable data not available. Data were only collected for secondary schools in 2005/06.

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.

[3] Excludes non-maintained special schools and general hospital schools.

[4] The number of exclusions by reason expressed as a percentage of the total number of exclusions.

Note:

Totals may not appear to equal the sum of component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census and Termly Exclusions Survey

Pupils: Languages

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many primary school children in each local authority area did not speak English as their first language in the latest period for which figures are available. [22683]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 8 November 2010]:* The latest information on first language in primary schools can be found in table 13a of the Statistical First Release 'Schools, Pupils and their Characteristics: January 2010' which can be accessed at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000925/index.shtml

Runaway Children

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what emergency accommodation is available in each local authority area for children who go missing from home. [21428]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 4 November 2010]:* This information is not held centrally. There is a range of emergency accommodation currently on offer across the country which is provided by local authorities. It is for local authorities themselves to decide on the most appropriate and effective form of emergency accommodation provision in their area for all young people who find themselves without a safe place to stay.

School Leaving: Kent

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of students educated in Maidstone and the Weald constituency who left education at the age of 16 in each of the last three years. [21486]

Mr Gibb: Estimates of participation in education and training for 16 and 17-year-olds in each local authority in England are published by the Department in a Statistical First Release (SFR) each June. The full SFR can be found on the Department's website:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000938/index.shtml

and data by local authority are contained in the fifth set of tables listed on this page.

These latest estimates show that 2,100 young people of academic age 16 in Kent were not in education or work-based learning at the end of 2008. These data do not go below local authority level and so figures for Maidstone and the Weald are not available.

School Leaving: Watford

Richard Harrington: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many people in Watford constituency left full-time education at the age of *(a)* 16 and *(b)* 18 years in each year since 2000. [22436]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 8 November 2010]:* Estimates of participation in education and training for 16 and 17-year-olds in each local authority in England are published by the Department in a Statistical First Release (SFR) each June. The full SFR can be found on the Department's website:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000938/index.shtml

and data by local authority are contained in the fifth set of tables listed on this page.

The latest estimates show that 1,500 young people of academic age 16 in Hertfordshire were not in full-time education at the end of 2008, from a population of 14,500. The full time-series is provided in the following table.

Table: Participation in full-time education of academic age 16 year olds in Hertfordshire

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
In full-time education[1]	10,800	10,400	10,700	10,900	11,300	11,600	12,300	12,600	13,000
Not in full-time education[2]	1,700	2,400	2,200	2,500	2,400	2,200	1,800	1,800	1,500
Population[3]	13,000	13,000	12,900	13,300	13,700	13,800	14,100	14,400	14,500

[1] Participation is assigned to the local authority in which the young person is resident from 2001 onwards; in 2000 participation in maintained schools, City Technology Colleges and academies was assigned according to the address of the school. Figures are not available disaggregated into parliamentary constituencies or for academic age 18 year olds.

[2] Numbers not in full-time education are based on subtracting unrounded full-time participation from unrounded population; hence estimates for participation in full-time education plus not in full-time education might not add up to the published population figure due to rounding.

[3] Population estimates are rounded to the nearest 100 from 2002 onwards; prior to 2002 population is rounded to the nearest 1,000 in accordance with Office for National Statistics (ONS) guidelines at the time.

Schools

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the future of online schooling communities; and if he will make a statement. [19674]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 26 October 2010]*: The Department currently has no specific plans on online schooling communities.

Schools: Food Supply

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will take steps to increase the proportion of domestically produced food supplied to schools. [20566]

Mr Gibb: Maintained schools and local authorities are free to choose the food products they buy and from where they purchase them, so long as the meals provided comply with the statutory school food standards for healthy food and they comply with procurement regulations. Schools and local authorities have been provided with advice about efficient, sustainable food procurement practices that use seasonal produce but such purchasing decisions will continue to be taken locally and should take account of sustainability issues, best quality and value for money.

The coalition Government are committed to developing Government Buying Standards (GBS) for the public procurement of food and food services, which will mean that Government Departments will have to buy food that meets minimum sustainability standards. The standards will reflect the Government's overarching commitment to procure food that meets British or equivalent standards subject to no overall increase in costs. Once developed, the GBS will be mandatory for central Government Departments and their agencies and will be promoted to the wider public sector, including schools. A stakeholder review of these standards will take place shortly.

Schools: Hearing Impairment

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many hearing impaired units there are in mainstream schools *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in the West Midlands; and to how many children such units provide services. [21146]

Sarah Teather: Information on the number of hearing impaired units within mainstream schools and the number of pupils who attend them is not collected centrally; however, work is underway to enhance Edubase (the Department's register of all educational establishments in England and Wales).

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his most recent estimate is of the number of British sign language-qualified teachers teaching deaf children in mainstream schools *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in the West Midlands; and what qualifications such teachers are required to have. [21147]

Sarah Teather: We do not routinely collect data regarding the number of British sign language qualified teachers teaching deaf children in mainstream schools either nationally or by region. Local authorities are responsible for ensuring that teachers of hearing impaired and deaf children possess the appropriate mandatory qualification to undertake the role. It is a matter for local authorities to ensure that they have enough qualified teachers to meet their statutory commitments.

The school work force census should, from November 2011, collect data on additional qualifications held by teachers. This will allow us to ascertain the numbers of teachers who possess the mandatory qualification for teaching children with sensory impairments. This approach is subject to the outcome of a review of data collection activity.

At the end of the year the Government plan to publish a Green Paper on special educational needs and disabilities, which will explore how we can improve support for all children with special educational needs and disabilities, including those who are deaf or hearing impaired.

It is a priority to improve the educational outcomes for all children and we recognise the important role specialists, such as teachers of the deaf, play in meeting this goal.

Schools: Transport

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department and its predecessors have spent on *(a)* taxis to school and *(b)* other personalised forms of school transport in (i) St Albans and (ii) Hertfordshire in each of the last five years. [16779]

Tim Loughton: The Department and its predecessors have not centrally recorded expenditure to this level of detail and it could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The relevant local authority may be able to provide my hon. Friend with the information that she requires.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the administrative cost to *(a)* his Department, *(b)* local authorities and *(c)* schools of producing school travel plans in each year since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [18845]

Mr Gibb: School travel plans are produced by schools to help them embed sustainable school travel. Since 2004, the Department for Education and the Department for Transport have provided funding to local authorities and schools under the Travelling to School Initiative, to support sustainable school travel, largely by encouraging schools to develop school travel plans.

We have not collected information about the administrative costs to the Department, local authorities and schools, although we estimate that the cost to the Department is in the region of £3,500 per year. The Department has made funding available to local authorities to pay for school travel advisers to support schools in producing school travel plans. The amounts paid jointly by both the Department for Education and the Department for Transport since 2005 are set out as follows:

Grant paid to local authorities to fund school travel advisers

	£
2005-06	6,714,000
2006-07	6,714,000
2007-08	6,714,000

Grant paid to local authorities to fund school travel advisers

	£
2008-09	6,714,000
2009-10	6,714,000
2010-11	6,714,000

Students: Disadvantaged

Chris Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will introduce a pupil premium for young people *(a)* attending college, *(b)* in sixth forms and *(c)* in apprenticeships. [20144]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 28 October 2010]*: The 16-18 funding formula already has an element that ensures young people from disadvantaged backgrounds attending schools and colleges, or who are funded as an apprentice, receive a funding premium. The formula has two elements which provide students with a funding supplement. These are the funding linked to the disadvantage uplift within the formula, and that for additional learning support. Details of the 16-18 funding formula for schools and colleges can be found on the website of the Young People's Learning Agency at:

http://readingroom.ypla.gov.uk/ypla/funding_rates_and_formula_v2.2.pdf

and that for apprenticeships on the Skills Funding Agency website at:

http://readingroom.skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk/sfa/Apprenticeship-funding-requirements-2010_11-v1.pdf

Teachers Pensions

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will make it his policy to ensure that the changes to the Teachers' Pension Scheme proposed in the report by Lord Hutton on the future of public sector pensions are not implemented. [19079]

Mr Gibb: The coalition Government accept the conclusions in Lord Hutton's interim report on public service pensions, in particular:

> the importance of providing good quality pensions to public servants;
>
> the rejection of a race to the bottom in pension provision;
>
> the case for further reforms of public service pension schemes; and
>
> that members of public service schemes should pay more towards their pension benefits, in particular through the implementation of progressive changes to the level of employee contribution that will be phased in from April 2012.

The coalition Government will await Lord Hutton's final recommendation, due in advance of Budget 2011, before considering the form and content of defined benefits going forward and the precise level of progressive contribution required. The nature and implementation of changes to the Teachers' Pension Scheme will be the subject of detailed discussions in the coming months with teacher union and employer representatives.

Teachers: Training

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the future of masters' programmes for continuing professional development of teachers. [21615]

Mr Gibb: The quality of teachers and their professional development are of the utmost importance and this is why we want to encourage more school-led professional development. We want to support teachers to progress further academically and to deepen their subject knowledge, and we are committed to developing a strong culture of professional development where more teachers acquire postgraduate qualifications. We are still considering what place the Masters in Teaching and Learning (MTL) might have in supporting teachers to achieve this.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he expects to answer question 14256, on the Children, Schools and Families Bill, tabled by the hon. Member for Southend West on 8 September 2010; and if he will make a statement. [20257]

Mr Gibb: A response was issued to my hon. Friend on 4 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 920-21W.

TREASURY

AgustaWestland: Government Assistance

Ian Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer by what mechanisms he plans to disburse the proposed £32 million support for AgustaWestland announced in the spending review. [23021]

Danny Alexander: The final form of the assistance is subject to detailed ongoing negotiations with the company.

Anglo Irish Bank

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps the Government are taking to support small investors in the UK who have lost money due to the collapse of the Anglo Irish Bank. [22867]

Mr Hoban: Retail depositors in Anglo Irish Bank have not lost any money. The bank continues to operate, and depositors continue to be protected by the Irish Depositor Guarantee scheme and an unlimited guarantee from the Irish Government.

The Irish Government have announced that an assessor will be appointed by the Minister for Finance to assess whether compensation should be paid to former shareholders of Anglo Irish Bank.

Cheques

Mr Knight: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with British banks on allowing their customers to retain the right to continue to use cheques; and if he will make a statement. [22731]

Mr Hoban: The banking industry has given a clear public assurance, through the Payments Council, that cheque facilities will not be withdrawn unless and until suitable alternatives are in place.

Child Benefit: Disability

Kate Hoey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) by what means his Department plans to determine the categories of children to be classified as disabled when considering whether claimants of child benefit who pay income tax at the higher rate will be exempt from the proposed withdrawal of that benefit; [22468]

(2) when he plans to announce the categories of children to be classified as disabled when considering whether claimants of child benefit who pay income tax at the higher rate will be exempt from the proposed withdrawal of that benefit; [22469]

(3) whether claimants who pay income tax at the higher rate whose children become disabled will be able to reapply for child benefit. [22471]

Mr Gauke: From January 2013, child benefit will be withdrawn from all families containing a higher rate taxpayer. Disabled children may be eligible for disability living allowance, which provides additional universal financial support to those with disabilities. Disabled children and their families will continue to receive support through the provision of short breaks. The Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Disability Green Paper, due to be published in the autumn, will set out proposals intended to further improve the support system.

Crown Currency Exchange

Helen Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions the Financial Services Authority (FSA) was contacted with concerns about the operations of Crown Currency Exchange Ltd before its collapse; and which *(a)* organisations and *(b)* individuals contacted the FSA. [23072]

Mr Hoban: The Financial Services Authority's (FSA's) day-to-day operations are independent from Government control and influence. I have asked the FSA to write to the hon. Member on the issue she raises.

Departmental Redundancy

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much funding to meet staff redundancy costs was identified in his Department's settlement letter in respect of the comprehensive spending review; [21553]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of redundancies arising from the spending reductions proposed in the comprehensive spending review in respect of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies; [21554]

(3) what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of staff redundancy in each of the next four years. [21555]

Justine Greening: All pressures on HM Treasury's budget were taken into account as part of the spending review and the settlement was allocated accordingly.

Detailed decisions regarding any redundancies and consequent cost that may be required in HM Treasury or its non-departmental public bodies will be taken over the coming months.

Equitable Life Assurance Society: Compensation

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the merits of bringing forward proposals to make payments to Equitable Life members who purchased their policies prior to September 1992. [22270]

Mr Hoban: With profits annuitants (WPAs) who took out policies before 1 September 1992 did so before any maladministration could have affected their decisions, so therefore have not been included in the Government's proposed payment scheme.

The Government are committed to implementing the parliamentary ombudsman's recommendation to introduce a fair and transparent payments scheme to Equitable Life policyholders for their relative loss as a result of regulatory failure.

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the financial loss to Equitable Life policyholders who purchased their policies prior to September 1992. [22271]

Mr Hoban: Policyholders who purchased their policies prior to September 1992 did so before any maladministration could have affected their decisions. As such they do not have a relative financial loss for that period.

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of Equitable Life policyholders who purchased their policy prior to September 1992 who were affected by the maladministration of Equitable Life. [22382]

Mr Hoban: With profits annuitants (WPAs) who took out policies before 1 September 1992 fall outside the Government's proposed payment scheme. Therefore we do not hold data on this group of policyholders.

EU Budget

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the process for agreeing the EU Financial Perspective for 2014 to 2020; and if he will make a statement. [22540]

Justine Greening: The European Commission will put forward its proposals for the next EU budget financial perspective in 2011. However, the Government are greatly concerned about growing UK contributions to the EU budget. As such, the Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer have been working closely with other member states to ensure the EU budget contributes to the difficult fiscal consolidation being undertaken across the EU. In particular, at the October European Council:

> First, the UK won backing from 12 other member states—including Germany and France—to put a stop to the 6% increase in the 2011 EU Budget that was being proposed by the European Parliament. A UK-led joint letter underlined that "we are clear that we cannot accept any more than" the 2.9% increase being proposed by the Council.

Second, the UK has secured an important new principle for the EU budget in future years. From now on the EU budget will reflect the spending cuts being made by national governments. To quote the conclusions text:

> "Heads of State or Government stressed that, at the same time as fiscal discipline is reinforced in the European Union, it is essential that the European Union budget and the forthcoming multi-annual Financial Framework reflect the consolidation efforts being made by Member States to bring deficit and debt onto a more sustainable path."

As such, because of UK action on the EU budget, we have now agreed that the EU budget must reflect the difficult choices we are making in our own countries.

Financial Services: Regulation

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment the Financial Services Authority has made of the foreign exchange industry; and what progress he has made on his examination of the case of Crown Currency Exchange. [22289]

Mr Hoban: The administrators are reviewing the trading operations of Crown Currency Exchange, its financial position and the conduct of its directors. Once the administrators have reported, the Government will look closely at this case to see what lessons need to be learned from the failure of the company.

The Financial Services Authority's (FSA's) day-to-day operations are independent from Government control and influence. However, I understand that the FSA has met the administrators of Crown Currency Exchange and awaits the administrators' report.

Research and Development Tax Credit

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 1 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 668W, on the Research and Development Tax Credit, (1) what proportion of research tax credits he expects to be paid to *(a)* manufacturing and *(b)* financial services in each year to 2014-15; [23106]

(2) what proportion of receipts from corporation tax is derived from *(a)* manufacturing and *(b)* financial services. [23107]

Mr Gauke: Information on the amount of research and development tax credit paid is not broken down by industrial sector.

Historical figures for corporation tax receipts paid by several broadly-defined business sectors are regularly updated and published in Table 11.1, on Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs National Statistics website. These include manufacturing and financial services excluding life receipts. The latest update is available here:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/corporate_tax/table11.1.pdf

Revenue and Customs: Christchurch

Mr Chope: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what facilities are available to taxpayers in Christchurch constituency to talk to a member of HM Revenue and Customs staff about their tax affairs in person. [22904]

Mr Gauke: HMRC does not have an office in the Christchurch constituency. However HMRC does have an inquiry centre approximately four miles away in Bournemouth where customers who need advice on their tax affairs can make an appointment. To do this customers can either telephone one of HMRC's helplines, depending on the nature of their query, or go to the inquiry centre in person. It is open from 8.30 am to 5 pm Monday to Friday and the address is:

Holland House
Oxford Road
Bournemouth
BH8 8DZ

The helpline numbers are available on HMRC's website at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk

Revenue and Customs: Databases

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consideration he has given to the *(a)* merits and *(b)* cost of introducing a real-time information system to the National Insurance and PAYE Service computer system. [22377]

Mr Gauke: In July this year, HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) published a discussion paper on improving the operation of pay-as-you-earn (PAYE). The paper sought views on changes to PAYE, including a move to collect information about tax and other calculations in real time. This was the first stage of a consultation process to seek views and opinions from all interested parties regarding the benefit that real time information would bring to PAYE.

Responses to the discussion paper indicate that there is strong support for the collection of real-time earnings information. A consultation paper will be issued in due course.

Real time information will enable better data to be transmitted to the National Insurance and PAYE Service (NPS). It will also deregulate employers and improve the accuracy of PAYE and tax credits for individuals and HMRC.

£100 million was allocated in the spending review to further improve the operation of PAYE, and build on the investments already made in NPS, using real time information.

Social Security Benefits

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much and what proportion of the estimate in the Social Security Forecast for Annual Managed Expenditure he expects to spend on *(a)* the basic state pension, *(b)* jobseeker's allowance, *(c)* employment and support allowance, *(d)* housing benefit, *(e)* council tax benefit and *(f)* pension credit in each year to 2015. [19905]

Chris Grayling: I have been asked to reply.

Forecasts presented are in nominal terms, and therefore the main factor driving trends in the forecasts over the period shown is the uprating of benefits. Forecasts also reflect demographic changes, June Budget and spending review policy measures, and the ongoing effects of employment and support allowance replacing incapacity benefit. The jobseeker's allowance forecast includes additional claimants due to this, and also to the lone parent obligation.

The information requested is shown in the following tables.

Annually managed expenditure, Great Britain

£ million, nominal

	2009-10	*2010-11*	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*	*2015-16*
Basic state pension	53,653	55,821	59,028	61,513	63,946	67,199	70,841
Jobseeker's allowance	4,690	4,568	4,974	5,080	5,028	4,871	4,579
Employment and support allowance	1,268	2,749	4,899	6,491	8,174	9,861	10,665
Housing benefit	19,978	21,536	21,913	21,735	20,825	21,499	22,042
Council tax benefit	4,698	5,004	4,891	4,906	4,403	4,470	4,597
Pension credit	8,133	7,960	7,572	7,340	7,069	6,942	6,865
Total annually managed expenditure	147,430	152,246	156,226	158,728	159,762	164,403	170,669

As proportion of total (percentage)

	2009-10	*2010-11*	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*	*2015-16*
Basic state pension	36	37	38	39	40	41	42
Jobseeker's allowance	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Employment and support allowance	1	2	3	4	5	6	6
Housing benefit	14	14	14	14	13	13	13
Council tax benefit	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Pension credit	6	5	5	5	4	4	4
Total annually managed expenditure	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Note:

Figures cover Great Britain only.

Source:

June Budget forecasts with spending review measures

Tax Evasion

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he made of the cost to the economy of tax evasion in the latest period for which figures are available. [20648]

Mr Gauke: Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs published the latest available estimates of the tax gap in September 2010 in "Measuring Tax Gaps 2010"

> http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/measuring-tax-gaps-2010.htm.pdf

This included an illustrative split of the 2007-08 tax gap by taxpayer behaviour, based on management assumptions and judgment. This indicated that the amount of tax (income tax and national insurance contributions, corporation tax and VAT) lost to evasion is around 17.5% of the total, with the hidden economy accounting for a further 7.5%.

Taxation: Environment Protection

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the proportion of the budget deficit to be reduced by revenue from green taxes in each of the next three years. [22882]

Justine Greening: The coalition Government are committed to increasing the share of revenue drawn from green taxes. All taxes are kept under review and announcements on tax policy are made at the Budget. Forecasts for receipts from taxes are set out in table C11 of Budget 2010.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Banks: Loans

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 16 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 1255W, on banks' loans, what steps he plans to take to increase the availability of credit finance to small and medium-sized enterprises. [22132]

Mr Prisk: The coalition Government have articulated their ambition to ensure the flow of credit to viable SMEs. The Government have published their response to the consultation on business finance issues, "Financing a private sector recovery". It is available at:

> http://www.bis.gov.uk/businessfinance

There are various measures in place to support access to finance for SMEs. I aim to continue to support and improve the diversity of sources and access to finance for SMEs that meet their needs. Such sources of finance were announced by the Chancellor in the budget and later enhanced by the Government's response to the consultation "Financing a private sector recovery":

> A four year extension to the Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG) making around £2 billion available to viable small companies without a credit history or lacking sufficient collateral.
>
> An increased commitment of the Enterprise Capital Fund by £200 million to support small businesses with the highest growth potential, providing more than £300 million of investment into the equity gap after both Government and private sector funding are combined.
>
> Welcoming a joint bid from business angels and the Government's SME investment arm, Capital for Enterprise Ltd., for a co-investment fund as part of the Regional Growth Fund. If successful, this

> would support angel investments into high growth potential early stage SMEs, particularly in areas worst affected by public spending cuts.
>
> Welcoming the Banks' announcement of a new £1.5 billion Business Growth Fund, to provide equity funding of between £2 million and £10 million for small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) with strong growth potential. The Government will also work with the British Bankers' Association's Business Finance Taskforce and banks on a range of commitments set out in their response to the Green Paper and which will assist small businesses with access to finance issues. These include mentoring and a new lending code.

Broadband: Redditch

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of the funding allocated to broadband programmes in the Comprehensive Spending Review will be spent on programmes located in Redditch constituency. [22234]

Mr Vaizey: The information for non-departmental public bodies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

To date no allocation of funds has been made for projects in the Redditch constituency, or any other constituency.

Business: Loans

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will bring forward proposals to ensure that small businesses have access to finance in the Comprehensive Spending Review period. [22989]

Mr Prisk: The Government's response to the Green Paper 'Financing a Private Sector Recovery' was published on 1 November 2010. Among other measures, we have confirmed our intention to continue the Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme until 2014-15, providing up to £600 million of additional lending to around 6,000 small and medium enterprises next year alone and over £2 billion in total over the next four years, subject to demand. We have also undertaken to continue the programme of Enterprise Capital Funds by increasing our commitment by £200 million over the next four years, providing more than £300 million of investment for early stage innovative SMEs.

Business: Newton Abbot

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to increase access to finance for small and medium-sized enterprises in Newton Abbot constituency. [21430]

Mr Prisk: The coalition Government have articulated its ambition to ensure the flow of credit to viable SMEs. The Government's has published its response to the consultation on business finance issues, "Financing a private sector recovery".

It is available at

> http://www.bis.gov.uk/businessfinance

There are various measures in place to support access to finance for SMEs. I aim to continue to support and improve the diversity of sources and access to finance for SMEs that meet their needs. Such sources of finance available to SMEs including those in my hon. Friend's constituency of Newton Abbot were announced by the Chancellor in the budget and later enhanced by the Government's response to the consultation "Financing a private sector recovery":

> A four year extension to the Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG) making around £2 billion available to viable small companies without a credit history or insufficient collateral. As at 28 October, 11 businesses in the constituency of Newton Abbot have been offered EFG backed loans with a value of £69,000 all of which have been drawn.
>
> An increased commitment of the Enterprise Capital Fund by £200 million to support small businesses with the highest growth potential, providing more than £300 million of investment into the equity gap after both Government and private sector funding are combined.
>
> Welcoming a joint bid from business angels and the Government's SME investment arm, Capital for Enterprise Ltd., for a co-investment fund as part of the Regional Growth Fund. If successful, this would support angel investments into high growth potential early stage SMEs, particularly in areas worst affected by public spending cuts.
>
> Welcoming the banks' announcement of a new £1.5 billion Business Growth Fund, to provide equity funding of between £2 million and £10 million for small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) with strong growth potential. The Government will also work with the British Bankers' Association's Business Finance Taskforce and banks on a range of commitments set out in their response to the green paper and which will assist small businesses with access to finance issues. These include mentoring and a new lending code.

Business: North East

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of jobs *(a)* created and *(b)* safeguarded as result of securing grants from the Grant for Business Investment scheme in 2009-10; and what estimate he has made of the average cost to the public purse of each such job in the North East. [22964]

Mr Prisk: In 2009/10 332 offers were made and accepted under the Grant for Business Investment scheme. These were expected to create a total of 6,542 new jobs and safeguard 4,111 jobs. In the north-east the average cost to the public sector of each such job is £5,412.

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what factors he took into account when taking the decision to withdraw the Grant for Business Investment scheme; how many applications were made to the Grant for Business Investment scheme in the North East in 2009-10; how many offers of funding were made; and what the total monetary value of such offers was. [22965]

Mr Prisk: As is made clear in the Local Growth White Paper (Cm 7961), while the Grant for Business Investment scheme provided by the regional development agencies will cease with their closure, large scale cases will be considered, on an exceptional basis, by this Department.

This decision took into account a wide range of relevant factors, including particularly the planned closure of the regional development agencies, the need to reduce the budget deficit and the likely future availability of other types of support for business.

In the north-east 142 applications for support under the Grant for Business Investment scheme were received in 2009/10. Over the same period 73 offers of support were made and accepted. The total value of these offers was £17,524,000.

Business: Northumberland

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to assist small and medium-sized enterprises in *(a)* Wansbeck constituency and *(b)* Northumberland county. [22925]

Mr Prisk: A number of measures which are being undertaken with the purpose of stimulating growth which are particularly targeting support for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs).

As the regional development agencies are decommissioned I will introduce a new and flexible delivery system which will include a national website, a national contact centre and access to mentors which should help SMEs to grow. I also intend to establish a network of Growth Hubs in England to support businesses with high growth potential.

The Government will provide highly focused support to SMEs through a renewed and streamlined portfolio of business improvement products through Solutions for Business to be launched by this Department by April 2011.

We are establishing Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) as set out in the White Paper on Local Growth. This will involve local business and civic leaders working together to drive economic growth and create new jobs in their communities. Discussions are under way on the formation of a LEP that will include Northumberland.

Business: West Midlands

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to assist the development of small and medium-sized businesses in *(a)* the West Midlands and *(b)* Coventry. [22786]

Mr Prisk: A number of measures which are being undertaken with the purpose of stimulating growth which are particularly targeting support for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs).

As the regional development agencies are decommissioned I will introduce a new and flexible delivery system which will include a national website, a national contact centre and access to mentors which should help SMEs to grow. I also intend to establish a network of Growth Hubs in England to support businesses with high growth potential.

The Government will provide highly focused support to SMEs through a renewed and streamlined portfolio of business improvement products through Solutions for Business to be launched by this Department by April 2011.

We are establishing Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) as set out in the White Paper on Local Growth. Coventry will be covered by a new LEP for Coventry and Warwickshire. This will involve local business and civic leaders working together to drive economic growth and create new jobs in their communities.

Copyright Tribunal

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many staff are employed by the Copyright Tribunal; and how much was spent on salary costs in the last year for which figures are available. [21845]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 4 November 2010]:* The Copyright Tribunal is not an employer in its own right. The members of the tribunal, both legally qualified and lay members, are either offering their services as part of their existing judicial duties and hence remunerated through their existing judicial salaries, or are paid on a per diem basis for attendance. The tribunal's administrative and secretarial needs are met by one part-time employee of the Intellectual Property Office.

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many redundancies he expects there to be at the Copyright Tribunal as a result of the implementation of the Government's proposals for public bodies reform; and what he expects the (a) severance and (b) pension arrangements to be for employees. [21847]

Mr Davey: The Copyright Tribunal is not an employer in its own right and hence there are no redundancies envisaged. It will retain the expertise of its legally qualified and lay members after its transfer to the Tribunal Service. The Copyright Tribunal's secretariat resource will transfer along with the Tribunal.

Copyright Tribunal: Buildings

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the address is of each property *(a)* leased and *(b)* owned by the Copyright Tribunal; and what the annual rental costs of those buildings were in each of the last three years. [21829]

Mr Davey: The Copyright Tribunal does not own or lease any buildings. Its secretariat is co-located within the Intellectual Property Office's leased space at 21 Bloomsbury Street, London, WC1B 3HF. The IPO also supplies hearing and meeting rooms as required by the tribunal and this forms part of the cost recharged to the tribunal.

Debts: Complaints

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps have been taken since publication by the Office of Fair Trading of its Debt Management Guidance Compliance Review to increase awareness in the debt management sector of the Financial Ombudsman Service's rules on resolving consumer complaints. [22632]

Mr Davey: The compliance review has highlighted problems within this industry. The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) set out the immediate steps it has taken in the report, including warning 129 non-compliant audited debt management firm, that they face losing their consumer credit licences unless they take immediate action to address identified areas of non-compliance, including bringing their consumer complaints handling procedures into line with the Financial Ombudsman Service's (FOS) rules. The OFT also disseminated its report to approximately 1,200 licensed providers of debt advice. On 2 November 2010, a senior director from the OFT gave a speech to over 200 representatives from the debt management industry at the main trade body's (Debt Resolution Forum) annual conference which sent a strong and clear message to the industry about the improvements it must make in the coming year, including addressing the OFT's concerns about poor levels of compliance with the FOS regime. In addition, the OFT plans to update its guidance and will continue to work with the two main trade bodies, the Debt Managers Standards Association (DEMSA) and the Debt Resolution Forum (DRF) to support their initiatives to introduce higher standards into the industry.

Debts: Licensing

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) on the process by which those debt management firms which do not provide independently audited evidence that they have brought their operations into compliance with OFT debt management guidance by the end of 2010 would have their licences revoked. [22633]

Mr Davey: The primary focus in 2010 for the team that investigates traders engaged in debt management activities at the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) has been its review of compliance with its Debt Management Guidance (published on 28 September 2010) and taking subsequent enforcement action to warn 129 debt management firms about non-compliant business practices identified during the OFT's review. The firms were instructed to produce independently audited evidence confirming action that they have taken to address the identified areas of non compliance by the middle of December, and of the 129 firms, 30 have indicated that they will surrender their licences, 85 firms have agreed to comply and the OFT has initiated revocation action against 15 traders, but these figures may well change.

Dentistry: Higher Education

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what financial support his Department provides for dental students. [22328]

Mr Willetts: For the first four years of their course, undergraduate dentistry students receive financial support from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. This is administered by Student Finance England. Those with household incomes of up to £50,020 are entitled to a non-repayable maintenance grant, of which those with household incomes of £25,000 or less are entitled to the maximum grant amount of £2,906. Further means-tested grant support is available to those with caring responsibilities. All students are eligible for loans to cover their tuition fees and provide help towards their living costs. Those facing financial hardship can also apply for help from the discretionary Access to Learning Fund through their university.

From the fifth year of their course, undergraduate dentistry students receive financial support from the Department of Health (DH). This includes an NHS Bursary and a reduced maintenance loan. DH will also pay the tuition fees of these students for these years.

On top of this, the Government provide funding to universities via the Higher Education Funding Council for England. For the 2009/10 academic year, undergraduate dentistry degrees attracted £5,327 per student for the first year of the course; and attracted £14,242 per student for the remaining years of the course.

Departmental Reviews

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what departmental policy reviews his Department has undertaken since 6 May 2010; on what date each such review *(a)* was announced and *(b)* is expected to publish its findings; what estimate he has made of the cost of each such review; who has been appointed to lead each such review; to what remuneration each review leader is entitled; how many (i) full-time equivalent civil servants and (ii) seconded staff are working on each such review; from which organisations such staff have been seconded; and how much on average such seconded staff will be paid for their work on the review. [21891]

Mr Davey: The Department has undertaken six departmental policy reviews since 6 May 2006. Information on the estimated cost of each review is not held by the Department. Individuals recruited externally to chair reviews have been appointed in an advisory capacity and are not salaried staff. None of the external chairs have received remuneration, with the exception of Richard Hooper who received £19,183. Where BIS staff led reviews, they were recruited from within the Department and were not entitled to further payments for their work in addition to their normal salary. No staff have been seconded to the Department for Business to work on the reviews specifically.

The following table sets out the information the hon. Member has asked for which the Department holds on these reviews.

Subject	*Date review announced*	*Anticipated date of report*	*External Lead for each review*	*How many civil servants are working on the review (full-time equivalents)*
Update of 2008 Independent Review of the Postal Services Sector	24 June 2010	Report was published on 10 September 2010	Richard Hooper	0.5
Consumer Credit and Personal Insolvency Review	13 July 2010	Early 2011	Led internally by BIS	2.7
Offender Learning	20 July 2010	November 2010	Led internally by BIS	1.2

Subject	*Date review announced*	*Anticipated date of report*	*External Lead for each review*	*How many civil servants are working on the review (full-time equivalents)*
Review of the Design Council	16 July 2010	The review was published on 14 October	Martin Temple CBE, chair of EEF and a board member of the Design Council	2.5
Women on Boards	6 August 2010	February 2011	Lord Davies	[1]1
Red-tape burdens that fall on small civil society organisations	17 August	Report to Ministers in early 2011	Lord Hodgson	[1]1

[1] From BIS

Education: Finance

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the likely effect of the implementation of the proposal to maintain the level of spending on science on the level of spending on *(a)* further and *(b)* higher education in the comprehensive spending review period; and if he will make a statement. [22848]

Mr Willetts: The different areas of Government spending were assessed on their own merits. The Government recognise the fundamental role of science and research in rebalancing the economy and restoring economic growth. This is why, despite enormous pressure on public spending, the overall level of funding for science and research programmes has been protected in cash terms.

Around two-thirds of science and research public funding is spent in universities, so the comprehensive spending review settlement for science and research has a substantial positive impact on higher education.

Green Investment Bank

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects the proposed Green Investment Bank to be operational. [22104]

Mr Prisk: The Government aim to complete the design of the Green Investment Bank (GIB) and conduct further market testing by spring 2011. Although a precise timeline for the GIB becoming operational cannot be provided at this stage, the GIB will begin making investments as it receives funding from asset sales and departmental budgets.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the oral answer of 20 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 985, on the Green Investment Bank, which Government assets he plans to sell to provide funding for the proposed Green Investment Bank; how much funding he expects to be raised from each asset sale; and what proportion of the funding accruing from each asset sale will be allocated to the Green Investment Bank. [23114]

Mr Prisk: To give information on expected proceeds from individual asset sales would prejudice the Government's commercial position in ongoing and future sale processes. However, at an aggregate level, the Government are confident that the asset sales they are considering will be sufficient to provide significant additional funding above the £1 billion allocated to the Green Investment Bank from departmental budgets. It will make further announcements on this funding stream in due course.

Hallowe'en Lanterns

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions his Department has had with manufacturers of Hallowe'en lanterns to ensure lanterns are constructed from materials which are biodegradeable. [22883]

Mr Davey: I believe the hon. Gentleman is referring to sky (Chinese) lanterns rather then lanterns specifically for Halloween. My Department has had no discussions with the manufacturers who are numerous and located in Asia. However, in August, officials did write to all UK local authority trading standards offices asking them to contact importers and retailers of lanterns to ensure that only sky lanterns which are biodegradable be placed on the market.

Immigration Controls: Science

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received from representatives of the academic and research community on the likely effects of the proposed immigration cap on the science sector. [22916]

Mr Willetts: I have had many discussions, both formal and informal, with a wide range of stakeholders on this subject. Last week I convened a meeting with representatives of the higher education, further education and research sectors. Additionally, I have received correspondence on the subject from many interested parties.

Manufacturing Industries: Public Expenditure

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills from what budgets the £200 million a year to be allocated to manufacturing and business development as referred to in paragraph 2.51 of the Spending Review 2010, will be drawn. [20553]

Mr Davey: This funding is a new line of expenditure negotiated with HM Treasury as part of the spending review.

Manufacturing Insight

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the future of Manufacturing Insight. [22905]

Mr Prisk: The Government are fully committed to raising the profile of manufacturing and we are considering the best way of achieving this. Later this year, we will be publishing a Manufacturing Framework which will outline ways of working with industry to promote UK manufacturing; to ensure the vital role of manufacturing in the UK economy is recognised.

Mass Media

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to encourage the growth of diverse business types in the media sector. [22995]

Mr Prisk: The media industry has an important part to play in our plans for a more balanced and sustainable British economy, and will benefit from the Government's policies to create macro-economic stability; to help markets work more effectively; to focus on enabling private sector growth and investment; and to ensure that everyone in the UK has access to opportunities.

National Vocational Qualifications

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the Skills Funding Agency plans to provide funding for the Business Improvement Techniques NVQ in each of the next three years. [21726]

Mr Hayes: Since 2008 sector skills councils and awarding organisations have been preparing qualifications for the new Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF). The QCF is being developed as part of the wider reform of vocational qualifications and allows vocational qualifications to be designed using the latest and most up-to-date employment standards, with active input from employers through their skills councils.

SEMTA, the Skills Council for Engineering, has redeveloped the previous NVQ in Business Improvement Techniques for the QCF, and following the review against Skills Funding Agency public funding guidelines, the new QCF NVQ Business Improvement Techniques has been confirmed for funding by the Skills Funding Agency for this academic year.

However the agency has raised concerns at the size of the QCF qualifications and their assessment strategy and what this would mean for learners and providers. Colleagues in Scotland have also raised similar concerns.

On this basis, the agency has agreed to fund the Business Improvement Techniques to 31 July 2011 only and, during this period, will seek further feedback from providers and awarding organisations on both qualification size and assessment strategy.

By January 2011 the agency will be able to assess the feedback received, and also take account of the work which the UK Commission for Employment and Skills has been doing with SEMTA with regard to robustness of their process for vocational qualification reform. At this point the agency will then confirm future funding arrangements for this qualification.

One NorthEast: Assets

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the residual *(a)* assets and *(b)* liabilities are of One NorthEast. [22963]

Mr Prisk: We are in the early stages of regional development agency closure and transition. Until this process is complete we will not know what the residual assets and liabilities of each RDA will be.

Particle Accelerators

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the potential creation of strangelets in the operation of (i) apparatus in the UK producing high-energy ion collision and (ii) the CERN Large Hadron Collider. [22661]

Mr Willetts: The Secretary of State has not commissioned any research into this matter, as the UK has no equipment capable of producing strangelets, even if they exist.

CERN has conducted its own safety assessments. The Large Hadron Collider Safety Assessment Group (LSAG), a group of independent scientists, concluded in 2002-03 that there was no conceivable risk from the collisions at the LHC. Their assessment was re-examined by CERN's Scientific Policy Committee (SPC), a group of external scientists that advises CERN's governing council, and they confirmed these conclusions, which include the assessment that the LHC is not capable of producing strangelets.

In 2008 and in the light of new experimental data and theoretical understanding, the LHC Safety Assessment Group (LSAG) updated the 2003 analysis. The LSAG reaffirmed and extended the conclusions of the 2003 report that LHC collisions present no danger and that there are no reasons for concern. The LSAG noted that the LHC will produce, under controlled conditions, events that have already taken place many times over during the lifetime of the Earth and other astronomical bodies.

Patents: EC Law

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will discuss with his EU counterparts the enforcement of cost orders emanating from patent judgments by the EU Office of Harmonization for the Internal Market. [20974]

Mr Davey: The Office of Harmonization for the Internal Market (OHIM), situated in Alicante in Spain, registers trade marks and designs registrations, but not patents. Adversarial proceedings before this office do attract cost awards against losing parties according to a scale set out in Rule 94 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 2868/95 of 13 December 1995 implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 40/94 on the Community trade mark. There is no duty on the OHIM to enforce such costs, which is a matter for the parties concerned under civil law provisions. I am aware that such orders, which involve relatively low sums of money, are not routinely honoured or vigorously pursued. Though I have no plans to discuss this with my EU counterparts I will be asking my officials to determine whether non-payment is a source of particular disquiet to legal professionals and to successful litigants.

Public Expenditure

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his Department's capital expenditure per head was in *(a)* London and *(b)* the North West in each of the last five years. [21454]

Mr Davey: The data requested are shown in the following table, based on the HM Treasury country and regional analysis used for the Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses Command Paper (PESA 2010, Cm. 7890).

£

	London	*North-west*
2005-06	57.04	-1.29
2006-07	49.77	24.86
2007-08	54.62	25.20
2008-09	60.13	31.14
2009-10	79.82	45.32

Regional Development Agencies

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the potential effect of the liabilities of regional development agencies on his Department's budgets for local regeneration projects. [22087]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 4 November 2010]:* The Department does not directly fund local regeneration projects but has overall responsibility for the regional development agencies' single pot which includes funding from other Departments for this activity. The majority of RDA liabilities are represented by existing legal commitments in respect of local economic development and regeneration projects.

Regional Development Agencies: Assets

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the receipts to accrue to his Department from the disposal of the assets of regional development agencies. [22873]

Mr Prisk: It is not possible at present to estimate the extent of receipts arising from the disposal of the assets of the regional development agencies as decisions have yet to be made on the scope and timing of any sale.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of the assets of regional development agencies he plans to transfer or dispose of before the notification of Royal Assent to the Public Bodies Bill. [22874]

Mr Prisk: We will be working closely with the regional development agencies in respect of the transferring or disposal of their assets and liabilities. This work will be in line with the principles outlined in paragraphs 2.45 to 2.47 of the Local Growth White Paper and will take account of the existing statutory framework of the Regional Development Agencies Act 1998 and, with the exception of the London Development Agency, the provisions of the Public Bodies Bill.

As introduced, the draft clauses of the Public Bodies Bill confer a power to make a transfer scheme for property, rights and liabilities in connection with an order abolishing a regional development agency.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to paragraph 2.44 of the Local Growth White Paper, Cm 7961, what the governance framework is for the disposal of regional development agency assets and liabilities. [22875]

Mr Prisk: Until new legislation comes into force, RDA assets and liabilities will be disposed of by the relevant RDA within the existing statutory framework (The Regional Development Agencies Act 1998) which in practice means that disposal decisions will continue to reflect the RDAs' statutory purposes, particularly the need to further the economic development and regeneration within the relevant area while ensuring maximum public value in line with HM Treasury guidance on managing public money. Disposals will be overseen by the relevant RDA Board and within that RDA's assurance framework and will take place within a strong governance framework for RDA closure led by BIS with Department for Communities and Local Government and HM Treasury membership of the Transition Board.

Regional Development Agencies: Our Life

Mark Menzies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what payments were made by the regional development agencies to Our Life in the financial year 2010-11; and for what purpose in each such case. [22445]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 8 November 2010]:* None of the Regional Development Agencies have made payments to Our Life so far in the financial year 2010-11.

Regional Growth Fund

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of the Regional Growth Fund he plans to allocate to *(a)* housing and *(b)* transport projects. [22461]

Mr Prisk: The objectives and criteria for the Regional Growth Fund are set out in the Local Growth White Paper, 'Local growth: realising every place's potential', which was published on 28 October and introduced to Parliament by an oral statement given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills made on that day, *Official Report*, column 408.

The Regional Growth Fund is a challenge fund and not ring-fenced or pre-allocated in any way to keep it flexible and responsive to the economic development needs of the country. The support offered for particular sectors or types of economic activity will depend on the strength of bids to the fund to deliver its core objectives of creating private sector jobs and growth. Decisions on successful proposals will be based on recommendations by the independent Advisory Panel, chaired by my noble Friend Lord Heseltine.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will direct the Regional Growth Fund to commit an annual sum to research and development funding no less than the annual sum committed to regional development agencies for such purposes. [22504]

Mr Prisk: The objectives and criteria for the Regional Growth Fund are set out in the Local Growth White Paper, 'Local growth: realising every place's potential', which was published on 28 October and introduced to Parliament by an oral statement given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills made on that day, *Official Report*, column 408.

The Regional Growth Fund is a challenge fund and not ring-fenced or pre-allocated in any way to keep it flexible and responsive to the economic development needs of the country. The support offered for particular sectors or types of economic activity will depend on the strength of bids to the fund to deliver its core objectives of creating private sector jobs and growth. Decisions on successful proposals will be based on recommendations by the independent Advisory Panel, chaired by my noble Friend Lord Heseltine.

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether any of the funds allocated by his Department as part of the comprehensive spending review will be drawn from the budget of the regional growth fund. [23020]

Mr Prisk: Decisions on bids made to the regional growth fund will be decided by a ministerial group chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and will be informed by recommendations on the effective deployment of the fund made by an independent advisory panel chaired by Lord Heseltine. The funding for the regional growth fund is separate from the spending review settlement given to this Department and from the Department's allocations to its partners.

Research Councils: Finance

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to announce the budget allocation for each research council for the comprehensive spending review period; and if he will make a statement. [22840]

Mr Willetts: In the recent spending review the Chancellor announced that the Government will spend £4.6 billion on science and research programmes in each of the next four years within a ring-fenced budget. Capital and administration spending on science and research have not yet been decided.

In the coming weeks, Ministers will make decisions on the balance of funding between research councils, the Higher Education Funding Council for England's research and knowledge transfer activities, the national academies and other programmes. We expect this will be completed by Christmas. Detailed decisions on specific projects will be taken by funding bodies, in line with the Haldane principle.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 2 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 754W, on research councils: finance, how much funding the *(a)* Confederation of British Industry and *(b)* Council for Science and Technology provided to the research councils in each of the last five years. [23058]

Mr Willetts: The Confederation of British Industry represent the views of the private sector, they do not provide direct funding for research councils. The Council for Science and Technology is a governmental advisory group and does not provide any funding for research councils.

Royal Mail and Post Office: Redundancy

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the proportion of jobs he expects to be lost in *(a)* Royal Mail and *(b)* the Post Office as a result of his proposals for future ownership of Royal Mail. [22772]

Mr Davey: To secure its future, whether in the public or private sector, Royal Mail has to improve its efficiency and this will regrettably mean a further loss of jobs in the company. The Business transformation agreement between the company and the Communication Workers Union recognises this. The number of job losses will be an operational matter for the company.

Under proposals set out in the Postal Service Bill, we have made it clear that Post Office Ltd (POL) is not for sale. The employment of staff in post offices is a matter for Post Office Ltd for Crown post offices, and for individual sub-postmasters in their own sub-post offices. As with Royal Mail, POL has to ensure that it operates efficiently, but the Government have committed that there will be no further programmes of post office closures.

Royal Mail: Stoke on Trent

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has made an assessment of the likely effects on Stoke-on-Trent Royal Mail centre of the proposed consolidation of service provision within Royal Mail. [22771]

Mr Davey: The provision of postal services in the Stoke-on-Trent area is an operational matter for Royal Mail. The company is taking forward a business transformation plan, agreed with the Communication Workers Union, which will see a restructuring of its mail centres and other operational changes. Royal Mail has to improve its efficiency so that it can secure its future in a market where letters volumes continue to decline. Its half year results, which reported a £66 million loss in the letters business, emphasised the need for change.

I have asked the chief executive at Royal Mail to write to the hon. Gentleman and provide an update on any operational changes in the Stoke-on-Trent area and a copy will be placed in the House Libraries.

Science: Finance

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much of his Department's capital budget for science for 2011-12 has been allocated to the funding of *(a)* long-term and *(b)* international partnerships and projects. [23061]

Mr Willetts: The allocations of capital budgets for science and research following the recent spending review have not yet been decided.

In the coming months, Ministers will make decisions on the balance of funding between the individual research councils, HEFCE's research and knowledge transfer activities, the national academies and other programmes. Detailed decisions on funding for long-term and international partnerships and projects will be taken by funding bodies in line with the Haldane principle.

Students: Radicalism

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent estimate he has made of the number of students in further and higher education institutions who have been radicalised. [19403]

Mr Hayes: BIS does not make estimates on the numbers of students radicalised. We have evidence that radicalisation or recruitment takes place in some of our campuses. The problem is not widespread but is obviously very serious where it occurs. We work closely with the police and institutions to help them manage the risk of this occurring.

The issue of radicalisation in higher and further education, and the extent to which the Government can offer more support to the most vulnerable institutions, will be looked at in detail in the review of 'Prevent', the preventative strand of the Government's counter-terrorism strategy, 'Contest'.

No estimates are made by the police or agencies about the numbers of students radicalised.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Females: Offenders

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how much the Government Equalities Office spent under each budget heading on holding events on women offenders in 2009-10; and how many staff were involved in organising these events. [22067]

Lynne Featherstone: In 2009-10 the Government Equalities Office (GEO) held a series of one-day stakeholder events with local service providers in England and Wales as part of the Department's contribution to the Government's strategy to divert women from crime following Baroness Corston's report on women in the criminal justice system.

The events brought together key agencies from across the third and statutory sector, in order to consider how best to utilise the gender equality duty to meet the distinct needs of women offenders.

The total cost of hosting these 10 events was £184,510.70 and the total number of GEO full-time equivalent staff involved in their organisation was 1.5.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 10 November 2010

WALES

Institute of Fiscal Studies

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much her Department spent on services provided by the Institute for Fiscal Studies in each of the last 10 years. [23397]

Mr David Jones: Nil.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Sexual Harassment

Jo Swinson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what recent research the Government Equalities Office has evaluated on the incidence of sexual harassment of 16 to 18-year-olds; and if she will make a statement. [23018]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 9 November 2010]:* The Government Equalities Office has not undertaken any recent research on the incidence of sexual harassment of 16 to 18-year-olds.

Violence against women and girls ruins lives, destroys families, and has an impact across many generations. The gendered pattern and the dynamic of violence against women and girls needs to be understood and acknowledged and a cross-government strategy is the best way to address this. We are also developing a cross-government communications strategy which will challenge attitudes and behaviours towards women and girls which are unacceptable. Our work will also consider the effects of such violence on men and boys.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she plans to take to simplify the processes for making single farm payments as part of Common Agricultural Policy reform by 2013. [21870]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 4 November 2010]:* Reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) must deliver better value for farmers, taxpayers, consumers and the environment. Part of this must also be about developing a CAP that is simpler, and reducing the administrative burden on farmers from unnecessary regulation. Negotiations on CAP will begin formally in the context of a communication which we expect to be published by the European Commission later this month. I look forward to working with my counterparts in the EU and devolved Administrations in order to further the simplification agenda as part of these negotiations.

Arpley Landfill Site

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* air quality and *(b)* water quality tests the Environment Agency has carried out within a one mile radius of the Arpley landfill site in the last five years. [21679]

Richard Benyon: The Environment Agency has carried out one air quality test within a one mile radius of the Arpley landfill site in the last five years. This monitored flammable gases close to the surface of the landfill. The Environment Agency has also monitored ground gases in boreholes adjacent to the landfill.

The Environment Agency has sampled water quality on 522 occasions in this area over the last five years. Each test is sampled for a number of different contaminants that may be present in the river.

The site operator is also required to carry out air and water quality monitoring as part of its permit conditions. The operator is required to submit the results of this monitoring to the Environment Agency on a periodic basis.

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many complaints in respect of the handling of *(a)* hazardous waste and *(b)* radioactive waste at the Arpley landfill site the Environment Agency has received in each of the last five years. [21680]

Richard Benyon: The Environment Agency has not received complaints in respect of the handling of hazardous waste or radioactive waste at the Arpley landfill site in the last five years.

The Arpley landfill site is only permitted to accept non-hazardous and inert wastes under the terms of the current environmental permit.

Bottles: Recycling

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the oral answer from the Prime Minister of 15 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 878, on bottle deposit and refund schemes, what consideration her Department has given to the Campaign to Protect Rural England's report 'Have we got the bottle? Implementing a Deposit Refund Scheme in the UK'; and if she will make a statement. [22689]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 8 November 2010]:* We are currently analysing all contributions received as part of the review of waste policy, including the Campaign to Protect Rural England's report, 'Have we got the bottle?'.

As part of this review, the option of bottle deposit refund systems has been raised by a number of contributors, with divergent views. We will review all evidence submitted before making any formal decisions.

Cotton: EU Action

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on EU cotton subsidies; and if she will seek their abolition as part of post-2013 Common Agricultural Policy reform negotiations. [22225]

Mr Paice: I believe that the time has come for the last remaining direct support to the EU cotton sector to be de-coupled and the UK will be pursuing this end as part of our negotiating position in the forthcoming Common Agricultural Policy Reform round.

Dairy Farming

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will take steps to ensure that future proposals for intensive dairy farming are examined by her Department; and if she will make a statement. [21683]

Mr Paice: Planning proposals for intensive dairy farming units are for relevant planning authorities to examine.

DEFRA's interest is in ensuring that our comprehensive animal welfare and environment legislation which applies to all livestock farming, whatever the system and regardless of size is applied correctly.

As long as these standards are met, the Government recognise that the UK market has a place for sustainable intensification as well as more traditional production and added-value production, to enable the industry to be competitive in the UK, EU and global markets.

English Forestry Forum

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects the next meeting of the English Forestry Forum to take place. [22979]

Mr Paice: I have no plans to hold further meetings of this group. There will be stakeholder workshops as part of the public consultation on proposals for the public forest estate in England, and I encourage any former member of the English Forestry Forum to participate in these workshops.

Environment Protection: British Overseas Territories

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans her Department has for future *(a)* co-ordination of and *(b)* funding for the (i) Overseas Territories Environment Programme, (ii) Darwin Initiative and (iii) Overseas Territories Challenge Fund. [23096]

Richard Benyon: The Overseas Territories Environment Programme is jointly administered and funded by the Department for International Development and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. On the Darwin Initiative, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced at the recent meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Nagoya, Japan, that the UK will not only sustain the existing level of funding, but now plans to increase it over the next four years. The details for the next round of the Darwin Initiative, including the plans for the Overseas Territories Challenge Fund, are being elaborated, and we are aiming to launch the next round as soon as possible.

Forestry Commission

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) which *(a)* duties and *(b)* functions of the Forestry Commissioners she plans to delegate to other bodies; [22975]

(2) to whom she plans to delegate the duties and functions of the Forestry Commissioners of Great Britain. [22976]

Mr Paice: The Government are seeking legislative changes in the Public Bodies Bill to enable Ministers and the Forestry Commission in England to operate more flexibly. DEFRA and the Forestry Commission will consult shortly on proposals for the management and ownership of the public forest estate in England.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the role of Forestry Commission Great Britain is in respect of setting minimum standards for sustainable forest management for forests and woodlands. [22977]

Mr Paice: The Forestry Commission is responsible for developing the standards for sustainable forestry management in the UK. The UK Forestry Standard sets minimum standards and is accompanied by a series of guidelines providing advice on its implementation. Following a comprehensive review exercise over the last two years, a revised standard and guidelines are expected to be available in the new year. These have been developed in close consultation with the forest industry and other stakeholders.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the role of Forestry Commission Great Britain is in respect of research and knowledge transfer for sustainable forest management across the UK. [22978]

Mr Paice: Forest Research, an agency of the Forestry Commission, develops the evidence base to support sustainable forest management in the UK. This informs policy development, and provides practical guidance and support for operational forestry on the public and private forest estate.

Forestry Commission: Land

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the use of funds arising from the sale of Forestry Commission land in England; and if she will make a statement. [22971]

Mr Paice: DEFRA continues to hold discussions with HM Treasury about the future of the public forest estate in England. We will be consulting on proposals shortly.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects the Forestry Commission's portfolio analysis of the public forest estate to be published. [22974]

Mr Paice: The portfolio analysis is a geographical computer tool that enables the Forestry Commission to aid decision-making and assist with the management of the public forest estate. We shall be publishing and consulting on proposals for the public forest estate in England shortly.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what financial provisions she plans to make for additional woodland areas that become eligible for land management grants as a result of future sales of public forest estate land. [22980]

Mr Paice: We are committed to maintaining the existing levels of support for private woodland owners for the remainder of the Rural Development Programme for England, which runs until 2013. This includes the English Woodland Grant Scheme administered by the Forestry Commission.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the likely change in the area of woodland certified against the UK Woodland Assurance Standard as a result of sales of public forest estate land. [22981]

Mr Paice: Certification under the UK Woodland Assurance Standard is voluntary. The entire public forest estate is certified, as well as 144,000 hectares of other woods in England. An assessment of any potential change will be explored following the consultation exercise on the future of the public forest estate which we plan to hold early next year.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Electronic Equipment

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information her Department holds on the quantity of *(a)* chlorofluorocarbon, *(b)* hydrofluorocarbon and *(c)* hydrochlorofluorocarbon gases which were (i) emitted to the atmosphere and (ii) recovered and recycled in the UK from refrigeration and air conditioning equipment in each of the last five years. [22449]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 8 November 2010]*: The Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) currently reports annual emissions of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) in the UK Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory, which is available from the National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory website at:

http://www.naei.org.uk

In addition to this, DECC funds the measurement of atmospheric gas concentrations of HFCs, chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) at the Mace Head observation site. These data are available from the Advanced Global Atmospheric Gases Experiment website:

http://agage.eas.gatech.edu/

The HFCs observation data are used to verify the UK GHG Inventory and are available from the Air Quality website at:

http://www.airquality.co.uk/reports/cat07/1010151420_ukghgi-90-08_Annexes_Issue3_r.pdf

Under the European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register, available at:

http://prtr.ec.europa.eu/PollutantReleases.aspx

the UK estimates its emissions of CFCs, HFCs and HCFCs, however the data are only available for 2007 and 2008.

The following information is held on quantities of CFCs recovered (and destroyed) in the UK:

Kilograms

	Recovered				
Ozone-depleting substance	*2005*[1]	*2006*[1]	*2007*[2]	*2008*[2]	*2009*[2]
CFC R11	374,677	285,217	315,940	231,269	198,795
CFC R12	90,819	67,225	64,645	42,090	39,085
CFCs unspecified	1,200	59,095	10,454	16,352	
Total	466,696	411,537	391,039	289,711	237,880

[1] UK figures.
[2] England and Wales only.

No information is held on quantities of HFCs and HCFCs recovered and recycled in the UK.

Landfill: Refrigerators

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what information her Department holds on the average annual number of retail refrigerated display cabinets disposed of in landfill sites in the last five years; [21224]

(2) what information her Department holds on the average annual number of retail refrigerated display cabinets which were *(a)* re-manufactured and *(b)* recycled in the last five years. [21225]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA does not hold complete information on the number of retail refrigerated display cabinets reused, recycled or disposed of in landfill sites.

The EC regulations on substances that deplete the ozone layer require ozone-depleting substances to be removed from commercial refrigeration equipment before it is disposed of. In 2009, seven treatment sites in England and Wales processed 1,594,962 refrigeration units (both household and non-household) for ozone-depleting substances. This does not include data for commercial refrigeration units which do not contain ozone-depleting substances, nor are these data specific to refrigerated display cabinets.

The UK waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) regulations encourage the separate collection of WEEE, establish minimum treatment standards, and set recovery and recycling targets. DEFRA does not hold data on the number of retail refrigerated display cabinets processed under these regulations as non-household WEEE is currently non-obligated.

National Parks: Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance she has issued to Ofgem on its duty to have regard to the purposes of National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. [21988]

Richard Benyon: In 2005 DEFRA produced a guidance note about the duties to have regard to the purposes of National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This was sent to all those considered to be bound by them, including Ofgem.

In April of this year DEFRA also wrote to Ofgem (as a body it considered to be covered by the 'have regard' duty) to draw its attention to the new National Parks Circular.

Nitrogen Dioxide: Pollution Control

Sheryll Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she plans to announce the outcomes of her Department's review of options in respect of measures to help achieve nitrogen dioxide limit values by 2015. [22345]

Richard Benyon: The Government are preparing air quality plans to achieve EU limit values for nitrogen dioxide (NO_2). These plans will set out measures to achieve the NO_2 limit value by 2015, and will be included in the UK's time extension notification under the Ambient Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC). The Government expect to submit their NO_2 time extension notification to the European Commission by the required deadline of September 2011.

Pollution: Liquefied Petroleum Gas

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the contribution of the use of liquid petroleum gas as a *(a)* road and *(b)* domestic fuel to meeting air quality requirements. [21722]

Richard Benyon: With regards to what assessment has been made on the use of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) as a road fuel, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given in response to the hon. Member for Glasgow South (Mr Harris) by the Under-Secretary of State for Transport, my hon. Friend the Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) on 8 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 108W.

No specific assessments have been undertaken to estimate the contribution of the use of LPG as a domestic fuel to meeting air quality requirements.

Indicatively, LPG is used domestically as a cost-effective alternative to coal or gasoil predominately in rural areas, which are not connected to the gas grid. Emission calculations using the 2008 UK inventory for domestic sector emissions, found switching from LPG to either gasoil or burning oil has a negligible effect across all pollutants, with very small increases in emissions of sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide and oxides of nitrogen. These calculations also showed that switching to coal from LPG would increase emissions for the majority of pollutants. If all the domestic energy produced using LPG was completely substituted by coal, increases in UK emissions would be observed: 4% for PM10, 3% for PM2.5, 3% for CO, 2% for SO_2 and 1% for volatile organic compounds with a negligible effect on other pollutants.

The majority of domestic LPG use takes place in rural areas where areas of exceedences of the limit values stipulated in legislation do not occur. The pollutants which are monitored as part of the Gothenburg Protocol and the National Emissions Ceiling Directive which the UK needs to reduce in order to meet its emissions ceiling are much lower when LPG is used compared to coal. However, the domestic sector is a small contributor.

Recycling

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will take steps to increase the proportion of commercial waste which is recycled; and if she will make a statement. [22903]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 9 November 2010]*: The recycling rate of the commercial and industrial sector in England was 42% in 2002-03, when the last statistical survey of the sector was undertaken. We are currently undertaking a comparable survey, with the interim results to be published on 10 November 2010, and the final results scheduled for release in December 2010. This will give us an up-to-date picture of how much commercial waste is recycled. The review of waste policy, announced by the Secretary of State on 15 June, will consider how we can remove some of the barriers to recycling, particularly for small and medium-sized businesses, and how we can make it easier for businesses to recycle. This will help in our commitment to work towards a zero waste economy.

Rodents: Henderson Island

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if she will respond to the recent judgment by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee on the need for Government support for a rat eradication scheme for Henderson Island; [23097]

(2) if she will take steps to support the conservation of endangered wildlife on *(a)* Henderson Island (Pitcairn) and *(b)* Gough Island. [23098]

Richard Benyon: At its 34th meeting in July this year, UNESCO's World Heritage Committee commended the considerable progress made in planning the invasive rat eradication scheme for Henderson Island, and noted that further funding was needed to implement the scheme. To this end my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced, at the recent meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Nagoya, Japan, that the UK will be contributing £200,000 towards this initiative during the current year. This is in addition to funding for the project already provided by the Overseas Territories Environment Programme, administered by the Department for International Development and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The Government will consider plans for carrying out similar activities on Gough Island as and when they are received.

Water Supply: Leaks

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she plans to take in respect of water companies identified by Ofwat as failing to reduce excessive water leakage. [22578]

Richard Benyon: Ofwat has detailed the steps it is taking to reverse recent rises in leakage at some companies in its 2009-10 service and delivery report. The document is available on its website.

An explanation of the actions Ofwat has taken in the past against companies that have failed their leakage targets is included in the report.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Dealing with the Past

12. **Mr Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what factors he plans to take into account in taking further steps to secure progress in dealing with the past in Northern Ireland. [22159]

Mr Paterson: The Government are committed to playing their full role in dealing with the past in Northern Ireland, working with the Northern Ireland Assembly. The current absence of consensus on the issue of the past, and the views of victims and others who experienced the troubles, are among the factors which are being taken into account.

Community Policing

13. **Mr Tom Harris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the outcomes of the comprehensive spending review on the capacity of community policing in Northern Ireland to reduce the threat to security from dissident activity. [22160]

Mr Paterson: Following the outcome of the 2010 spending review, the Northern Ireland Executive are now aware of their funding allocation for the next four years. It is for the Executive to decide what proportion of this funding is allocated to the Police Service of Northern Ireland.

The Government are committed to ensuring the security of the people of Northern Ireland and it is essential that the Chief Constable has the appropriate resources to allow him to ensure that he can continue to tackle the threat. But we all acknowledge that that these resources would be better invested in dealing with community policing and issues such as antisocial behaviour and drugs, rather than on those who impose their views through intimidation and violence.

Public Sector Employment

Toby Perkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the likely effects of the recommendations of his paper on rebalancing the Northern Ireland economy on the number of people employed in the public sector in Northern Ireland. [22158]

Mr Swire: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and I have regular discussions with Treasury and Northern Ireland Ministers on these matters.

The paper will be published for consultation before the end of the year.

Police Service of Northern Ireland

Paul Goggins: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with the Northern Ireland Justice Minister on the resources required by the Police Service of Northern Ireland in 2011-12 to counter security threats. [22155]

Mr Paterson: I meet regularly with both the Justice Minister and the Chief Constable to discuss a range of issues, including PSNI resources. It is for the Justice Minister and the Chief Constable to negotiate and agree the policing budget with the Northern Ireland Executive. But my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister and I have made it clear that we will protect the people of our country from the terrorist threat with every means at our disposal.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

BBC: Commonwealth Games 2014

Ian Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to his answer to the hon. Member for Perth and North Perthshire (Pete Wishart) on 25 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 10, on the Commonwealth Games 2014, what representations he has made to the BBC Trust on the BBC's decision to withdraw as host broadcaster of the 2014 Commonwealth Games; and if he will make a statement. [22619]

Mr Vaizey *[holding answer 8 November 2010]:* The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport has not made any representations to the BBC Trust on this matter.

Departmental Travel

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate his Department has made of its expenditure on travel undertaken by *(a)* him and *(b)* each other Minister in his Department in (i) September and (ii) October 2010. [21858]

John Penrose: The total amount spent by the Department during September and October 2010 on all domestic and foreign travel by Ministers in their official capacity is set out in the table.

Minister	*Month*	*Estimated spend (£)*
Secretary of State	September	231
	October	1,889
Ministerial team	September	753
	October	630

This is an estimated cost from records currently held by the Department. Some invoices for travel have not yet been received by the Department and could not therefore be included.

Horse Racing: Betting

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what representations on the horserace betting levy he has received from the Racing United campaign; and if he will take steps to ensure that all areas of the betting industry contribute to that levy. [22492]

John Penrose: I have received a number of representations, on behalf of racing, about the Horserace Betting Levy, including those setting out the position of Racing United.

The Government recently announced their intention to remove the Secretary of State's role of determining the levy scheme when the parties are unable to reach agreement. This will require changes to primary legislation and will not have effect until Parliament has approved such changes.

We will be discussing the options with the Levy Board and the racing and betting industries, to ensure that funding for racing is fair and is collected from as broad a base as possible.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will include in the scope of any future review of remote gambling the potential contribution of all gambling operators to the horserace betting levy. [22493]

John Penrose: A consultation on the Regulatory Future of Remote Gambling in Great Britain closed on 18 June 2010. Since then, I have been examining the issues and identifying possible solutions.

I have also received advice from the Levy Board about securing fair contributions from overseas betting operators towards the Horserace Betting Levy. I hope to be able to make an announcement in due course.

Local Broadcasting: Television

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent progress his Department has made on encouraging commercially-sustainable local television. [23005]

Mr Vaizey: Nicholas Shott, head of UK investment banking at Lazard, will shortly conclude his independent review on the conditions necessary for commercially sustainable local television to emerge in the UK.

This will be published on the Department's website in due course, followed by a local media action plan due to be published in the new year.

The recent BBC funding settlement has secured a total of £25 million to help fund the capital costs in 2013-14 for up to 20 local TV services, subject to any necessary regulatory approval. The BBC will also commit to ongoing funding of up to £5 million per annum from 2014-15 to acquire content from local services.

In addition, the Government will shortly lay an order to remove the local cross-media ownership rules to promote a strong and secure local media industry.

National Lottery: Armed Forces

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 1 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 555W, on the National Lottery: armed forces, which countries in which personnel are serving are affected by the restrictions on buying lottery tickets. [22206]

John Penrose *[holding answer 8 November 2010]:* We do not currently hold a list of jurisdictions where it is illegal to buy UK national lottery tickets, although I understand that many countries outlaw participation in foreign lotteries and some prohibit any form of gambling. Given that other countries' laws are subject to change, the National Lottery Commission had decided that the best way to protect players from buying invalid tickets, or inadvertently putting themselves at risk of prosecution in foreign jurisdictions, was to introduce a new rule preventing anyone from buying a UK lottery ticket abroad.

However, I have now written to the NLC to ask them to reconsider how we can allow armed forces personnel (and others) to participate from those countries where purchasing UK lottery tickets is lawful.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Developing Countries: Education

Mr Russell Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking in conflict-affected countries to *(a)* reduce the drop-out rate from and *(b)* increase access to education for girls. [22815]

Mr O'Brien: As laid out in "The Coalition: our programme for government", the UK Government will prioritise increasing access to basic services, such as health and education, for the world's poorest people; including a particular focus on the rights of women and girls. Girls who progress to secondary education have better maternal health, fewer and healthier children and greater economic opportunities.

The Department for International Development (DFID) is currently reviewing its aid programmes to determine how we can achieve better value for money for the taxpayer, accelerate growth and achieve the millennium development goals. This includes a review of our emergency response programme, which will look at the provision of education in the immediate aftermath of conflict or natural disaster.

With over half of primary aged children not enrolled in school living in fragile and conflict-affected states—a total of 39 million children out of an estimated 69 million worldwide—we recognise the need to promote education, particularly for girls, in fragile and conflict-affected states. As such, the Government have committed to spend 30% of UK overseas development aid on supporting conflict affected and fragile states and tackling the drivers of instability by 2014-15.

Developing Countries: Tuberculosis

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department has allocated to international tuberculosis control in each of the last five years. [23027]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) supports tuberculosis (TB) control through a variety of bilateral channels, including funding for infectious diseases at country level, strengthening health systems in our partner countries to deliver TB programmes and funding research. Our direct bilateral spend on infectious diseases, including TB, increased from £101 million in 2005-06 to £117 million in 2009-10. We also support TB control through multilateral channels, including the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria. The UK has contributed £465 million to the Global Fund since 2005. Over the last five years approximately 33% of proposals approved by the Global Fund were TB-related and 15% of Global Fund funding has been disbursed on TB programmes. We are unable to accurately disaggregate DFID expenditure for TB control from these wider interventions.

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding he plans to allocate to international tuberculosis control in each year from 2011 to 2015. [23028]

Mr O'Brien: The UK remains strongly committed to reducing death and suffering from tuberculosis. The Department for International Development is currently reviewing its aid programmes to determine how to achieve better value for money for the taxpayer and accelerate progress towards achieving all the millennium development goals. We will review our forward approach to tuberculosis once the bilateral and multilateral aid reviews are complete.

Institute for Fiscal Studies

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on services provided by the Institute for Fiscal Studies in each year from 2000-01 to 2007-08. [23500]

Mr Duncan: Payments made by the Department for International Development (DFID) to the Institute for Fiscal Studies since 2002-03 is as follows. Information prior to 2002-03 is not captured in DFID's central accounting system and, therefore, cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

	Amount (£)
2002-03	0
2003-04	3,094
2004-05	0
2005-06	0
2007-08	95
2008-09	0
2009-10	0

EDUCATION

Children in Care

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children *(a)* were taken into care (excluding respite care), *(b)* left care and *(c)* were adopted in each of the last five years; how many were in care on 31 March 2010; and what proportion of children left care through adoption in each of the last five years. [18226]

Tim Loughton: The requested information is available as part of the Statistical First Release, Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England (including adoption and care leavers)—year ending 31 March 2010. This can be found at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000960/index.shtml

Information on the number of children taken into care can be found in table C4, information on the number of children who have left care is found in table D1 and information on the total number of children looked-after as at 31 March is found in table A1. Information on the number of children adopted and the proportion of children who left care through adoption is found in table D1. These tables can be found in the Excel link titled 'England Summary tables'.

Children In Care

Paul Goggins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many looked-after children *(a)* were taken into care in each of the last five years, *(b)* were in care on the latest period for which figures are available and *(c)* had been in care for more than (i) three months, (ii) six months and (iii) a year in the latest period for which figures are available. [22737]

Tim Loughton: The number of looked-after children taken into care in each of the last five years is available in table C4 in the Statistical First Release, Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England (including adoption and care leavers)—year ending 31 March 2010. This can be found at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000960/index.shtml

The number of looked-after children at 31 March 2010 can be found in table A1 of the same publication. Both tables can be found in the Excel link titled 'England Summary tables'. These tables contain the latest available information.

The requested information regarding the duration of time spent in care is shown in the following table:

Children looked-after at 31 March for (a) over three months, (b) over six months, and (c) over one year, at 31 March 2010[1, 2, 3], year ending 31 March 2010, coverage: England

Duration of time in care	*Number*
Over three months	58,300
Over six months	53,100
Over one year	44,300

[1] England figures have been rounded to the nearest 100.

[2] Figures exclude children looked-after under an agreed series of short-term placements.

[3] These figures are presented on a cumulative basis e.g. a child that is included in the 'over one year' category has also been included in the 'over six months' category.

Source:
SSDA 903.

Departmental Reviews

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what departmental policy reviews his Department has undertaken since 6 May 2010; on what date each such review *(a)* was announced and *(b)* is expected to publish its findings; what estimate he has made of the cost of each such review; who has been appointed to lead each such review; to what remuneration each review leader is entitled; how many (i) full-time equivalent civil servants and (ii) seconded staff are working on each such review; from which organisations such staff have been seconded; and how much on average such seconded staff will be paid for their work on the review. [21886]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education is leading six policy reviews, all announced since 6 May 2010. All are still under way. Details on publication dates, costs and staffing levels for each review follow (please note that secondees are defined as staff seconded to the reviews from outside of Whitehall).

1. Munro review

The review was announced on 10 June 2010 and is intended to report in April 2011, with an interim report in January 2011. A first report was published on 1 October 2010 and can be found at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/munroreview/downloads/TheMunroReviewofChildProtection-Part%20one.pdf

Our current estimate of the cost of the review is £100,000.

Professor Eileen Munro of the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) is leading the review. She is supported by Dr David Lane, an expert in systems theory. Professor Munro and Dr Lane are paid by the LSE, and the Department is reimbursing the LSE for 80% of Professor Munro's salary for the duration of the review and 100% of Dr Lane's for one term, and they are also both entitled to claim reasonable travel expenses. There are 16.15 full-time equivalent civil servants working on the review, which is focused on improving frontline practice in child protection. Two people have been seconded from outside Whitehall—one full-time and one part-time—from Staffordshire county council and the National Children's Bureau. The National Children's Bureau secondee continues to be paid by them at no cost to the Department. The local authority employee is a Grade 16 (spinal column point 71-73) which corresponds to a current salary scale of £77,682 to £81,567. The local authority is continuing to pay their salary and the Department for Education is reimbursing them.

2. Review of vocational education

The review was announced on 9 September 2010 and is expected to report in spring 2011. The cost of the review is yet to be estimated.

The review is being led by Professor Alison Wolf, and her employer (King's College, London) is being reimbursed for her time. Professor Wolf is entitled to claim expenses. There are three full-time equivalent civil servants working on the review, including analysts, and no individuals have been seconded from outside Whitehall to assist with the review.

3. Capital review

The review was announced on 5 July 2010 and will be completed by the end of the calendar year. The cost of the review is estimated to be up to £100,000.

The review is being led by Sebastian James, Group Operations Director of DSG International, who is not being paid by the Department but is entitled to claim essential expenses. There are 11 civil servants working on the review. No individuals have been seconded from outside Whitehall to assist with the review.

4. Early years foundation stage review

The review was announced on 6 July 2010 and is expected to report in spring 2011. The cost of the review is estimated to be around £100,000, with an additional amount of up to £250,000 covering associated research.

The review is being led by Dame Clare Tickell. Dame Clare is chief executive of Action for Children, so DFE is paying a salary reimbursement to them for her time between July 2010 and March 2011 (up to an estimated £21,520 plus VAT). There are seven full-time equivalent civil servants working on the review, and no individuals have been seconded from outside Whitehall to assist with the review.

5. Review of the Children's Commissioner

The review was announced on 12 July 2010. The expected date of report is end of November 2010. The cost of the review is estimated to be around £50,000.

The review is being led by John Dunford, who is being remunerated at a rate of £500 per day for carrying out the review, and is entitled to claim expenses. Our expectation is that the role will take approximately 40 days. His remuneration is included in the overall budget of £50,000. There are three full-time equivalent civil servants working on the review, and no individuals have been seconded from outside Whitehall to assist with the review.

6. Children in Need census review

The review was announced on 3 August 2010 and is expected to report in March 2011. The cost of the review is estimated to be around £7,000.

The review is being led by Nigel Nicholds from Norfolk local authority, who is not being paid but is entitled to expenses. There are 0.1 full-time equivalent civil servants working on the review and secondments from outside Whitehall are yet to be confirmed.

Education: Young People

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will issue guidance to local authorities on the staffing levels necessary to deliver their statutory responsibilities for *(a)* safeguarding, *(b)* well-being and *(c)* education of children and young people. [21354]

Tim Loughton: We have no plans to issue such guidance. Local authorities themselves are best placed to make decisions about the staffing levels required to deliver their responsibilities, in the light of local needs and circumstances and the available resources.

Foster Care: Per Capita Costs

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the annual average cost to social services of placing a child in foster care was in the last five years. [22355]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 8 November 2010]:* The information is not held in the format requested.

The following table shows expenditure on fostering services in England in the financial years 2004-05 to 2008-09.

Expenditure on fostering services[1] in England: 2004-05 to 2008-09[2,3]

£

	Expenditure on fostering services (gross)[4]	*Expenditure on fostering services (net)*[4]	*Expenditure per week on fostering services*[5]
2004-05	880,000,000	880,000,000	384
2005-06	960,000,000	960,000,000	420
2006-07	1,650,000,000	1,050,000,000	463
2007-08	1,110,000,000	1,110,000,000	489

Expenditure on fostering services[1] in England: 2004-05 to 2008-09[2, 3]

£

	Expenditure on fostering services (gross)[4]	*Expenditure on fostering services (net)[4]*	*Expenditure per week on fostering services[5]*
2008-09	1,130,000,000	1,080,000,000	—

[1] Fostering services includes all in-house provision, fostering services purchased externally, fees and allowances paid to foster parents and the costs of social worker and other support staff who support foster carers. For example, mainstay placements; link placements; permanent placements; temporary/respite fostering; placements with relatives, other than a parent, under foster care; arrangements; placements with approved prospective adopters pending the making of an adoption order under the Adoption and Children Act 2002; associated independent visitor costs and relevant contact payments.

[2] Expenditure data for 2004-05 to 2007-08 are drawn from PSSEX1 data published on the Information Centre for Health and Social Care website.

[3] Expenditure data for 2008-09 are drawn from Table A1 of the local authority Section 251.

[4] Figures rounded to nearest £10 million.

[5] Per week figures are not currently available for the financial year 2008-09.

GCSE

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many and what proportion of maintained mainstream schools did not enter a single pupil for a chemistry GCSE examination in the latest period for which figures are available; [20080]

(2) how many and what proportion of maintained mainstream schools did not enter a single pupil for a modern language GCSE examination in the latest period for which figures are available; [20081]

(3) how many and what proportion of maintained mainstream schools did not enter a single pupil for a physics GCSE examination in the latest period for which figures are available. [20082]

Mr Gibb: Of the 3,083 maintained mainstream schools that had more than 10 pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 and were published in the 2009 Secondary Schools Achievement and Attainment Tables, 1,461 (47%) did not have any entries in GCSE chemistry, 25 (1%) did not have any entries in a modern foreign language GCSE and 1,467 (48%) did not have any entries in GCSE physics.

Home Education

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what *(a)* A level and *(b)* GCSE grades were awarded to home schooled children in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [18841]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 21 October 2010]*: The information requested is not held centrally by the Department. We have no plans to collect this information.

Private Education: Tax Relief

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on tax relief for private schools. [22311]

Mr Gauke: I have been asked to reply.

Schools set up as charitable bodies that meet the definition of a charity for tax purposes are eligible for charitable tax reliefs in the same way as other charities. Non-charitable private schools are eligible for tax reliefs as for any other business.

Pupil Exclusions

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education in how many mainstream maintained schools more than 25 per cent. of pupils have received a fixed-period exclusion in the latest period for which figures are available. [20237]

Mr Gibb: In 2008/09 there were six mainstream schools, all state-funded secondary schools (1) where more than 25% of solely registered pupils (2) received a fixed period exclusion.

(1) Includes local authority maintained schools and academies.

(2) Headcount of solely registered pupils has been taken from January 2009 census. Schools which were not open at the January census have been excluded from the analysis.

Schools: Violence

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* pupils and *(b)* teachers have been admitted to hospital as a result of violent attacks within schools in each year for which figures are available. [20238]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education does not collect or hold any data on injuries in school.

The Health and Safety Executive holds data on injuries reported under RIDDOR (the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995). These include school-related injuries affecting employees and members of the public, including pupils.

RIDDOR also requires the reporting of injuries resulting from acts of violence. However, only physical injuries resulting from acts of violence suffered by people at work are reportable. For the purposes of accident recording, school pupils are categorised as members of the public, ie not 'at work'. Therefore, acts of violence to school pupils are not reportable under RIDDOR as a discrete category within the overall figures on injuries to pupils.

The coding of injury notifications under RIDDOR does not record whether the injured person was admitted to hospital.

The following table details the number of reported injuries to teachers involving acts of violence since 2001. These include injuries to support staff.

Reported injuries to teachers involving acts of violence 2001/02 to 2009/10[1]

	Severity of injury		
	Reported non-fatal major injuries	*Reported over-3-day injuries*	*All reported injuries*
2001/02	26	145	171
2002/03	32	186	218
2003/04	47	173	220
2004/05	43	211	254
2005/06	39	235	274
2006/07	35	210	245
2007/08	35	204	239

Reported injuries to teachers involving acts of violence 2001/02 to 2009/10[1]

	Severity of injury		
	Reported non-fatal major injuries	*Reported over-3-day injuries*	*All reported injuries*
2008/09	29	225	254
2009/10[1]	44	207	251

[1] Provisional.

Notes:

1. Injuries are reported and defined under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 1995. The annual basis of reporting is the planning year from 1 April to 31 March.

2. The information available under RIDDOR includes three categories of severity of injury: fatal injuries, defined major injuries and other injuries to workers leading to more than three days absence (over-3-day). There are two categories of severity for members of the public: fatal and non-fatal injuries that cause a person to be taken from the site of the accident to hospital. Only physical injuries resulting from acts of violence suffered by people at work are reportable as a defined injury under RIDDOR. Physical injuries resulting from acts of violence suffered by members of the public are not reportable.

3. Teachers are identified using Standard Occupational Classification (SOC). This system is used in UK official statistics for classifying workers by the type of job they are engaged in. The latest version is SOC2000, which has been used in HSE statistics since planning year 2002/03. Prior to this SOC90 was used.

Written Questions: Government Responses

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to respond to question 18226, on children taken into care or adopted, tabled on 14 October 2010. [20343]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 1 November 2010]:* A response has been issued to the hon. Member today.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Chinese: Falun Gong

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the policy of the Chinese Government towards practitioners of Falun Gong. [22913]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We raised this issue at the UK/China Human Rights Dialogue, held in Beijing in March 2010. We asked for numbers of Falun Gong practitioners currently serving in Re-education Through Labour (RTL) camps. The Chinese side reported that they were currently implementing a pilot of a community correction scheme with a view to replacing Re-education Through Labour camps. They stressed that the scheme was only being piloted at present.

We continue to have serious concerns about the mistreatment of Falun Gong adherents and regularly raise this issue with the Chinese Government. We have regularly urged the Chinese Government to reform the RTL system on the grounds that it lacks judicial oversight and contravenes international human rights standards.

Diplomatic Service

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of *(a)* ambassadors and high commissioners and *(b)* members of the Diplomatic Service were educated at (i) Oxford or Cambridge universities and (ii) independent schools. [22142]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not hold this data centrally on its employees. The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office aims to recruit a talented and diverse work force that reflects the society we serve and our recruitment policies are designed to encourage applications from the widest possible range of backgrounds. All external recruitment into the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is based on merit, and all campaigns must be fair and open.

In addition, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's internal promotion and progression schemes are firmly meritocratic, based on objective and consistent criteria against which all candidates are assessed.

European Parliament

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of holding 12 plenary sessions of the European Parliament in Strasbourg. [21896]

Mr Lidington: Estimates suggest that having two seats for the European Parliament currently costs the British taxpayer at least an additional £28 million per year. However the full cost to the EU budget of the European Parliament sessions in Strasbourg is not publicly available, since this is not itemised separately in the European Parliament's budget.

Gibraltar: Spain

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Spanish counterpart on *(a)* the actions of the Spanish authorities at the La Linea border crossing and *(b)* delays to UK- and Gibraltar-registered vehicles at that crossing. [22232]

Mr Lidington: We have raised our concerns about the Mayor of La Linea's earlier proposed plans to impose a charge on traffic entering/leaving Gibraltar with Spanish Ministers, making it clear that this is an issue for them to resolve. Our priority is to keep the traffic flowing at the border. We believe that the Spanish Government share this goal. They have reassured us that EU and Spanish law will be fully respected and that they do not consider that the Mayor of La Linea's earlier proposed actions would be legal. The Mayor has not implemented his proposals. However we continue to keep in close contact with the Government of Gibraltar and to monitor the situation at the border.

Iran: Baha'i Faith

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Government of Iran on the detention of members of the Baha'i community in that country; and if he will make a statement. [20079]

Alistair Burt: We remain concerned for the Baha'i community in Iran. I met the Iranian ambassador on 20 September to discuss this and a range of other human rights issues. I made it clear that the UK remains extremely concerned by the sentencing of the seven Baha'i leaders to 20 years imprisonment, which we understand has now been reduced to 10 years. As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary said in his statement of 11 August 2010, these sentences are unacceptable. Both the UK and the international community deplore the victimisation of the Baha'i faith by the Iranian state. We will continue to remind Iran of the international commitments it has freely signed up to, and urge the Iranian Government to cease their harassment of the Baha'i minority, and to respect the rights of all minority groups.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Simon Danczuk: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his *(a)* Israeli and *(b)* Palestinian counterparts on the Israeli Government's proposal for a compulsory oath of loyalty; and if he will make a statement. [23034]

Alistair Burt: We attach importance to the values set out in Israel's Declaration of Independence and basic laws. We are concerned by anything that detracts from these and will be watching this debate carefully. We do not want to see steps to prejudice Israel's non-Jewish citizens or to discriminate against people on the basis of their religion.

Mordechai Vanunu

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will ask the Government of Israel to release Mordechai Vanunu. [22507]

Alistair Burt *[holding answer of 8 November 2010]:* While we are concerned by the developments in this case and monitor the situation, Mr Vanunu is not a UK national and we are therefore constrained in the attention we can give to this. The UK has a strong record of lobbying the Israeli Government hard on issues regarding human rights and those directly related to our foreign policy objectives. Therefore, our capacity to lobby on specific cases, especially on behalf of non-British Nationals, is extremely limited.

Taiwan: International Civil Aviation Organisation

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on Taiwan joining the International Civil Aviation Authority. [22513]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government support Taiwan's practical participation in international organisations where this does not require statehood.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Electricity Generation

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the electricity production technologies which would *(a)* enable affordable domestic and industrial prices and *(b)* enable the UK to meet its emissions reduction targets. [22001]

Gregory Barker: The following table is taken from Mott Macdonald (2010) and gives levelised cost estimates (average generation cost per megawatt-hour) for new build plants in the main large-scale electricity generation technologies in the UK, including both fossil fuel and low carbon plant, at current engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contract prices.

It should be noted that for the purposes of presentation, the table only gives either 'FOAK' (first-of-a-kind) prices or 'NOAK' (nth-of-a-kind) prices for each technology.

Case 1: 10% discount rate, 2009 project start at today's EPC prices, with mixed FOAK/NOAK

Levelised cost	*Gas CCGT*	*Gas CCGT with CCS (FOAK)*	*ASC Coal*	*ASC Coal with CCS (FOAK)*	*Coal IGCC (FOAK)*	*Coal IGCC with CCS (FOAK)*	*Onshore wind*	*Offshore wind (FOAK)*	*Offshore wind R3 (FOAK)*	*Nuclear PWR (FOAK)*
Capital costs	12.4	29.8	33.4	74.1	61.7	82.0	79.2	124.1	144.6	77.3
Fixed operating costs	3.7	7.7	8.6	18.6	9.7	17.7	14.6	36.7	45.8	12.2
Variable operating costs	2.3	3.6	2.2	4.7	3.4	4.6	—	—	—	2.1
Fuel costs	46.9	65.0	19.9	28.7	20.3	28.3	—	—	—	5.3
Carbon Costs	15.1	2.1	40.3	6.5	39.6	5.5	—	—	—	—
Decomm and waste fund	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.1
CO_2 transport and storage	—	4.3	—	9.6	—	9.5	—	—	—	—
Steam revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total levelised cost	80.3	112.5	104.5	142.1	134.6	147.6	93.9	160.9	190.5	99.0

Source:
Mott Macdonald (2010), UK Electricity Generation Costs Update, available at:
http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/statistics/projections/71-uk-electricity-generation-costs-update-.pdf

As new technologies are deployed it is likely that costs will fall due to learning. The following table sets out the estimated levelised costs for projects started in 2017 with the assumption that all technologies have reached 'nth of a kind' status.

Case 5: 10% discount rate, 2017 start at projected EPC prices, all NOAK

Levelised cost	*Gas CCGT*	*Gas CCGT with CCS*	*ASC Coal*	*ASC Coal with CCS*	*Coal IGCC*	*Coal IGCC with CCS*	*Onshore wind*	*Offshore wind*	*Offshore wind R3*	*Nuclear PWR*
Capital costs	11.2	20.7	28.7	47.8	33.7	46.5	71.7	89.4	97.0	49.6
Fixed operating costs	3.7	6.0	8.6	13.8	8.0	12.3	—	23.0	30.9	9.1
Variable operating costs	2.3	3.6	2.2	3.7	2.7	3.6	—	—	—	1.8
Fuel costs	49.8	64.7	19.9	27.6	19.6	27.2	—	—	—	5.2
Carbon costs	29.6	4.1	73.8	11.4	72.0	10.0	—	—	—	-
Decomm and waste fund		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.1
CO_2 transport and storage		3.5	—	7.6	—	7.5	—	—	—	—
Steam revenue			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total levelised cost	96.5	102.6	133.2	111.9	136.0	107.1	86.3	112.4	127.9	67.8

Source:
Mott Macdonald (2010), UK Electricity Generation Costs Update, available at:
http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/statistics/projections/71-uk-electricity-generation-costs-update-.pdf

It should be noted that the estimates of levelised costs for different types of electricity generation are highly sensitive to the assumptions used for capital costs, fuel and EU emissions trading scheme allowance prices, operating costs, load factor, and other drivers, meaning that there is significant uncertainty around these estimates.

Housing: Insulation

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has made an estimate of the number of *(a)* homes and *(b)* businesses in (i) England, (ii) Hampshire and (iii) East Hampshire constituency which would be eligible for support for **(A)** loft insulation top-up, **(B)** cavity wall insulation, **(C)** internal solid wall insulation and **(D)** external solid wall insulation under the proposed Green Deal. [22272]

Gregory Barker: The Green Deal has the potential to improve the energy efficiency of up to 22 million homes in England and will generate new business opportunities. It is estimated that the Green Deal could drive 14 million individual installations in homes by 2020. Many of the 4.2 million businesses in England could also benefit from the Green Deal.

The Department for Energy and Climate Change does not have a detailed assessment of the potential in East Hampshire at this stage, however it is anticipated that householders and businesses across all tenures will be able to benefit from the new framework.

Wind Power: Cost-effectiveness

David T. C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the cost-efficiency of producing carbon-free electricity from onshore wind farms compared with *(a)* nuclear power and *(b)* other methods; and if he will make a statement. [22802]

Charles Hendry: The following table is taken from Mott Macdonald (2010) and gives levelised cost estimates (average generation cost per megawatt-hour) for new build plants in the main large-scale electricity generation technologies in the UK, including onshore wind, offshore wind and nuclear, at current engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contract prices.

Table 1: Mott Macdonald (2010) levelised costs (Case 1: 10% discount rate, 2009 project start at today's EPC prices, with mixed FOAK/NOAK)

Levelised cost	*Gas CCGT*	*Gas CCGT with CCS FOAK*	*ASC coal*	*ASC coal with CCS—FOAK*	*Coal IGCC—FOAK*	*Coal IGCC with CCS—FOAK*	*Onshore wind*	*Offshore wind—FOAK R3*	*Offshore wind FOAK*	*Nuclear PWR—FOAK*
Capital costs	12.4	29.8	33.4	74.1	61.7	82.0	79.2	124.1	144.6	77.3
Fixed operating costs	3.7	7.7	8.6	18.6	9.7	17.7	14.6	36.7	45.8	12.2
Variable operating costs	2.3	3.6	2.2	4.7	3.4	4.6	—	—	—	2.1
Fuel costs	46.9	65.0	19.9	28.7	20.3	28.3	—	—	—	5.3
Carbon costs	15.1	2.1	40.3	6.5	39.6	5.5	—	—	—	—
Decomm and waste fund	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.1

Table 1: Mott Macdonald (2010) levelised costs (Case 1: 10% discount rate, 2009 project start at today's EPC prices, with mixed FOAK/NOAK)

Levelised cost	*Gas CCGT*	*Gas CCGT with CCS FOAK*	*ASC coal*	*ASC coal with CCS FOAK*	*Coal IGCC FOAK*	*Coal IGCC with CCS FOAK*	*Onshore wind*	*Offshore wind FOAK R3*	*Offshore wind FOAK*	*Nuclear PWR FOAK*
CO_2 transport and storage	—	4.3	—	9.6		9.5				
Steam revenue	—	—	—							
Total levelised cost	80.3	112.5	104.5	142.1	134.6	147.6	93.9	160.9	190.5	99.0

Source:

Mott Macdonald (2010), UK Electricity Generation Costs Update, available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/Statistics/Projections/71-uk-electricity-generation-costs-update.pdf

It should be noted that for the purposes of presentation, the table only gives either 'FOAK' (first-of-a-kind) prices or 'NOAK' (nth-of-a-kind) prices for each technology. On offshore wind, for example, it shows offshore wind 'FOAK' prices, whereas the round 2 technology may be considered to have progressed towards 'NOAK' prices. Mott Macdonald estimate 'NOAK' offshore wind costs at £125/MWh (10% discount rate, 2009 project start at today's EPC prices).

TRANSPORT

Airports: Thames Estuary

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations he has received on the development of an international airport on the Hoo Peninsula, Medway. [20347]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 1 November 2010]:* None directly, although we have received several letters about possible airport development in and around the Thames Estuary. The Department has no plans for a new airport in the Thames Estuary, nor any other part of Medway or Kent.

Our priority is to get the most out of existing airport infrastructure in the South East, which is why I am chairing the taskforce announced by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State in his written ministerial statement on 15 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 48WS, to improve operations at the major South East airports.

Blue Badge Scheme

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to review the operation of the Blue Badge scheme for parking concessions. [22233]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport is currently reviewing the Blue Badge scheme. An announcement on how we plan to take the scheme forward will be made shortly.

Crossrail: Abbey Wood

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport in which year he expects the Crossrail station at Abbey Wood to be operational. [22612]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 8 November 2010]:* Under the revised programme for the construction of the central tunnels, we expect that phased introduction of Crossrail services will commence from 2018.

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions his Department has had with Southeastern Railway on interchange facilities with Crossrail services at Abbey Wood station; and what step-free interchange facilities he expects to be available in that station when it is rebuilt. [21772]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 4 November 2010]:* Crossrail Ltd is working with Network Rail, which is responsible for the construction of the Crossrail. On network works, including Abbey Wood station, network Rail is leading the discussions with Southeastern on the impacts on and improvements to the railway as a result of these works.

The Crossrail station at Abbey Wood is expected to include full provision for people with restricted mobility, with lifts from ground level and road over-bridge access to ticket halls and the Crossrail platforms.

Crossrail: Finance

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how much funding he plans to allocate to Crossrail in each year of the spending review period; [22821]

(2) what proportion of his Department's budget he plans to allocate to Crossrail in each year of the spending review period; and what proportion of that budget has been allocated to Crossrail in each year since the inception of that project. [22822]

Mrs Villiers: As set out in the 'Spending Review 2010: Transport for London funding agreement' letter from the Secretary of State to the Mayor of London of 20 October 2010, published on the Department for Transport's website, the funding allocated by the Secretary of State will be as follows:

	2011-12	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
Secretary of State's Crossrail capital grant (£ million)	517	1,205	1,123	1,082
Percentage of DFT budget	4	9	9	9

Crossrail funding represented 2% of the Department's budget in 2010-11, 1% in 2009-10 and below 1% in earlier years.

Ferries: Highlands and Islands

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he plans to take to ensure adequate marine emergency coverage for the Highlands and Islands following the removal of the Anglian Prince tug boat in 2011. [21773]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 4 November 2010]*: The current contract for the provision of emergency towing vessels at public expense will not be renewed when it expires in September 2011. Between now and the end of the contract, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency intends to work with the shipping and wider maritime industries, and also with local interested parties, local authorities and the Scottish Government, to explore options for ensuring the effective operation of commercial arrangements in the future.

Highways Agency: Finance

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of schemes in the supported *(a)* development and *(b)* pre-qualification pool for major schemes; and what his Department's budget is for major schemes for (i) 2010-11 and (ii) each of the three subsequent years. [22823]

Norman Baker: The total of the most recently requested or approved Department for Transport contribution for all the schemes in the three pools, and the maximum amount that would be expected to fall within the spending review period is as follows:

£ million

–	*DFT contribution requested or previously approved*	*Of which maximum falling within the spending review period*
Supported pool	408	325
Development pool	930	700
Pre-qualification pool	1,246	817

However, we will be inviting revised funding bids from the local authorities concerned with a view to reducing the overall call on Department for Transport funding, and before deciding by the end of 2011 which of these schemes should be taken forward for funding.

The Department is not able to make a reliable and up to date estimate of the total public sector cost including local authorities' own contributions, but will be seeking this information as part of the invitation to authorities to submit Best and Final Funding Bids (for schemes in the Supported Pool) and Expressions of Interest (for other schemes) by the end of December.

The Department's budget for local authority major schemes in 2010-11 and the spending review years is as follows. This includes provision for existing committed schemes, not mentioned above.

	£ million
2010-11	494
2011-12	418
2012-13	364
2013-14	335
2014-15	427

Railways: Electrification

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what timetable has been set for the electrification of the *(a)* Manchester to Liverpool and *(b)* Manchester-Preston-Blackpool line. [19796]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 26 October 2010]*: On 20 October 2010, the Chancellor announced that electrification of the lines between Manchester, Liverpool, Preston and Blackpool would go ahead. We are working with Network Rail to determine the timetable for the completion of these schemes, and will make an announcement in due course.

Railways: Fares

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has made a recent estimate of the likely effect on his Department's progress on carbon dioxide emission targets of proposed increases in rail fares. [20358]

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment has been made of the likely effects on the environment of his proposals to increase the cap on regulated rail fares to 3% above the retail price index for three years from 2012. [20576]

Mrs Villiers: The Government are committed to ensuring that transport plays a full role in delivering the UK's climate change targets. We will continue to monitor the carbon impact of policy and investment decisions to ensure we remain on course to deliver those targets.

Emissions of greenhouse gases from the transport sector are projected to fall significantly over the coming decade, in large part as a result of improvements to the fuel efficiency of new vehicles and the uptake of low carbon fuels.

The Department for Transport has not made a detailed estimate of the likely effects of increases in rail fares on transport emissions. Although the announced fare increases may encourage some modal shift away from rail, the overall impact on carbon emissions is likely to be small. The fare increase was one element of the spending review announcement. Other measures such as the local sustainable transport fund and the package of support for ultra low carbon vehicles are expected to lead to reductions in carbon emissions.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether he has made an estimate of the likely effect on the number of car journeys of proposed increases in rail fares; [20359]

(2) whether he has made an estimate of the likely effect on the number of passenger coach journeys of the proposed increases in rail fares. [20360]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport has not made a detailed estimate of the likely effects of increases in rail fares on other modes.

Although the announced fare increases may encourage some modal shift away from rail, the overall impact on other modes is likely to be small.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the likely effect on rail passenger numbers of the proposed increase in the cap on regulated rail fares to 3% above the retail price index for three years from 2012. [20577]

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what estimate his Department has made of the likely effect on the level of passenger rail use of an RPI+3 formula for fares; [20356]

(2) what estimate he has made of the likely effect on the number of passengers using rail services of the proposed increases in rail fares. [20361]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport expects that passenger journeys will continue to increase during the period from 2012 to 2014 when fares are due to rise by 3% above the retail price index (RPI) of inflation. It is estimated that the level of patronage will be up to 4% lower than it would have been had the cap remained at RPI+1%.

Railways: North West

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate he has made of the cost to the economy of rail congestion in principal cities in the Northern Hub. [22298]

Mrs Villiers: The aim of the Northern Hub study was to identify a preferred value for money option which would deliver economic benefits to the north of England through improving rail connectivity across the north and increasing the capacity of the rail network to accommodate long-term growth.

Rail congestion was not considered an issue in the Northern Hub study or in the subsequent draft northern route utilisation strategy (RUS) so no estimate has been made to the cost of the economy arising from it.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the economic effect on *(a)* the North West and *(b)* Yorkshire and the Humber region of the Northern Hub. [22442]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 8 November 2010]:* Network Rail's study into the strategic options available calculated that the preferred Northern Hub option would add £4.23 billion benefits to the north of England over a 60 year period. This figure was not disaggregated between regions of the north of England.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what capital allocations his Department has made for the implementation of the Northern Hub for each year of the spending review. [22443]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 8 November 2010]:* As part of the preparation for the next high level output specification, we will consider whether a Northern Hub scheme can be funded and what progress can be made on the project during the next Network Rail control period (2014-15 to 2019-20).

Since the spending review only covers the period up to 2015, no capital funding has been specifically allocated to the Northern Hub as yet. However, officials at the Department for Transport continue to work with Network Rail along with GMPTE on developing the case for the Northern Hub. I have visited Manchester for discussions on this proposal.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what timetable he has set for the implementation of the Northern Hub initiative. [22485]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 8 November 2010]:* As part of the preparation for the next high level output specification, we will consider whether a Northern Hub scheme can be funded and what progress can be made on the project during the next Network Rail control period (2014-15 to 2019-20). It would be premature to set a formal timetable for the project at this stage. However, officials at the Department for Transport continue to work with Network Rail, train operators and GMPTE on developing the case for the Northern Hub. I have visited Manchester for discussions on this proposal.

Road Traffic: Morecambe

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will assess the potential effects on traffic levels on trunk roads in Lancaster and Morecambe constituency of Lancashire County Council's Faber Maunsell plan. [22624]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport has no plans to assess the potential effects of Lancashire county council's Faber Maunsell plan on traffic levels on trunk roads in Lancaster and Morecambe. The Secretary of State announced on 26 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 177-79, that it will fund the Heysham-M6 Link Road scheme, subject to a revised funding bid from Lancashire county council and the satisfactory completion of all remaining statutory procedures.

Roads: Safety

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff in his Department were in posts with responsibility for road safety issues in October 2010; and how many such posts he expects there to be in October 2011. [22593]

Norman Baker: It is impossible to identify precisely the number of staff within the central Department with responsibility for road safety issues. While we have dedicated teams with road safety responsibility—principally the road user safety team, agency policy and sponsorship functions, and the team responsible for negotiating vehicle safety standards—road safety is also an important goal for many other parts of the Department (including but not exclusively the marketing team, the traffic management team, and the walking and cycling team).

The central Department and its Executive Agencies recorded the following full-time equivalent (FTE) posts who are responsible exclusively or mainly for working on road safety issues:

Road safety posts	*Permanent*	*Non-permanent*
DfT(c)	131.5	3
DSA	2450	5
DVLA	0	0
GCDA	0	0
HA	—	—
MCA	0	0

Road safety posts	*Permanent*	*Non-permanent*
VCA	131	1
VOSA	2,336.97	46.18
Total	5049.47	55.18

Notes:
1. Figures as at end October 2010.
2. DfTc. Covers some posts in Road and Vehicle Safety and Standards Directorate and Transformation Licensing Logistics and Sponsorship. Other posts with responsibility for road safety issues exist in other directorates.
3. The table gives total employee numbers for HA, DSA and VOSA given that all these agencies have road safety as a core concern.
4. VCA consider 131.5 permanent and one non-permanent member of staff have road safety as a core concern.

The Department is in the process of reviewing its structure in light of the Government's spending review. Future staff numbers will be determined as part of that process.

Transport for London: Grants

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department allocated in grant to Transport for London (TfL) for 2010-11 *(a)* prior to and *(b)* after his Department's in-year spending reductions; and what such funding his Department plans to allocate (i) in general grant, (ii) to Crossrail, (iii) to Metronet and (iv) under each other grant flow to TfL in each of the next three years. [22824]

Mrs Villiers: Prior to in-year savings, funding for Transport for London in 2010-11 consisted of:

Greater London Authority transport grant of £2,871,589,000

Two capital grants towards costs associated with the former Metronet public-private partnership, totalling £392,500,000

London overground grant of £24,932,347

A small number of other smaller payments

As a result of in-year savings, total funding for TfL in 2010-11 was reduced by £108,000,000.

The Secretary of State set out his intentions in relation to funding for Transport for London, including Crossrail and the companies into which the former Metronet PPP contracts have been transferred, for the years 2011-12 to 2014-15 in a letter to the Mayor of London dated 20 October. This letter has been published on the Department's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/press/letters/tflfunding/

Transport: Finance

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the oral statement of 26 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 177-79, on transport (investment), what guidance he has issued to local authorities submitting revised bids on local authority major schemes in the supported pool. [21043]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 3 November 2010]:* In addition to the oral statement the Department for Transport provided Members with a document entitled 'Investment in Local Major Transport Schemes' which sets out our proposals in more detail, including the submission of revised bids. This document has been sent to local authorities with schemes involved in the process including those in the supported pool. We are already in discussion with these authorities and will provide them with further detailed guidance very shortly.

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the oral statement of 26 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 177-79, on transport (investment), what estimate he has made of the cost of the local authority major schemes in the development pool. [21045]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 3 November 2010]:* The total of the most recently requested or approved Department for Transport contribution for all the schemes in the Development Pool is around £930 million, of which we estimate that no more than £700 million would fall in the spending review period.

However we will be inviting revised funding bids from the local authorities concerned with a view to reducing the overall call on Department for Transport funding, and before deciding by the end of 2011 which of these schemes should be taken forward for funding.

CABINET OFFICE

Civil Servants: Recruitment

Jon Trickett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* applicants and *(b)* acceptances of each (i) gender, (ii) ethnicity and (iii) socio-economic group there were to the Civil Service Fast Stream in each year since 2000. [22144]

Mr Maude: Data on the social class of applicants and appointees to the Fast Stream are not available. Monitoring of the socio-economic background of applicants and appointees will begin with effect from the 2011 entry competition.

Data on the gender and ethnicity of applicants and appointees are available in the annual Fast Stream reports, published on the Cabinet Office website at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/about-cabinet-office/plans-performance/faststream.aspx

Jon Trickett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of successful applicants to the Civil Service Fast Stream in each year since 2001 were educated at *(a)* Oxford and *(b)* Cambridge University. [22145]

Mr Maude: The proportion of successful applicants to the Fast Stream since 2001 who were educated at Oxford and Cambridge universities is as follows.

	Oxford	*Cambridge*	*Total appointees*
2001	14.01% (59)	14.01% (59)	421
2002	14.60% (60)	12.90% (53)	411
2003	17.65% (90)	18.04% (92)	510
2004	19.27% (90)	16.49% (77)	467
2005	16.66% (84)	13.10% (66)	504
2006	17.44% (83)	13.66% (65)	476
2007	18.42% (70)	12.90% (49)	380
2008	15.44% (88)	13.68% (78)	570
2009	16.53% (104)	9.70% (61)	629

Departmental Redundancy

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the number of redundancies arising from the spending reductions proposed in the comprehensive spending review in respect of *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies and *(c)* other public bodies which are dependent on his Department for funding. [21512]

Mr Maude: In respect of *(a)* we expect the size of the Cabinet Office to reduce by about 20% given its current functions over the spending review period. Natural turnover will deliver some of the reductions, however the Department is planning a voluntary departure programme in 2010-11 to support the reductions needed to achieve this target.

In respect of *(b)* and *(c)*, the recent review of public bodies recommended that seven of the Cabinet Office's 14 public bodies should no longer remain NDPBs:

Civil Service Appeals Board;

Government Strategic Marketing Advisory Board;

Main Honours Advisory Committee;

Security Commission;

Office for Civil Society Advisory Board;

Capacitybuilders;

Commission for the Compact.

The first five are small advisory bodies supported by Cabinet Office staff who will be absorbed back into the Cabinet Office and/or redeployed to other work.

There are no plans for redundancies in respect of staff supporting the work of the remaining advisory bodies—Advisory Committee on Business Appointments, House of Lords Appointments Commission, Security Vetting Appeals Panel, and the Committee for Standards in Public Life. The remaining Cabinet Office public body, the Boundary Commission for England, has staff seconded from the Cabinet Office. The staffing of the Commission is projected to increase over the 2011-12 period to meet the requirements of the next parliamentary boundary review and to revert to a staffing level comparable to that used for past reviews.

Alternative arrangements for the work of Capacitybuilders and the Commission for the Compact are currently under review.

The Central Office of Information has recently completed a redundancy exercise which was not part of the comprehensive spending review. 287 staff exits were made through a compulsory exercise, mitigated with some voluntary redundancies.

Any further changes to the status of the Central Office of Information are under consideration as part of a review which will report at the end of November.

The status of the National School of Government remains under consideration and will be announced in due course.

There are currently no plans for redundancies at the National School of Government following the spending review settlement. Any decisions about the National School of Government are expected to be made as part of the arm's length bodies review.

Government Departments: Photography

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many photographers are employed by Government Departments. [22666]

Mr Maude *[holding answer 8 November 2010]:* This information is not collected centrally.

Government Departments: Procurement

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether the 25 per cent. aspiration set for Government contracts to be awarded to small and medium-sized enterprises is to be measured as a proportion of *(a)* the monetary value of the contract, *(b)* the total number of contracts awarded by each Department or *(c)* committee measure. [22306]

Mr Maude *[holding answer 8 November 2010]:* As set out in the coalition programme, the aspiration is for 25% of the total number of Government contracts to go to SMEs.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether the 25% aspiration for the award of Government contracts to small and medium-sized enterprises applies to each Government Department or to the total number of such contracts awarded. [22307]

Mr Maude *[holding answer 8 November 2010]:* The aspiration is for 25% of the total number of Government contracts to go to SMEs. It is not our intention that each Department should award 25% of its contracts to SMEs.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the average cost to a supplier of completing a pre-qualification questionnaire for contracts with Government Departments. [22501]

Mr Maude: This information is not held centrally, but, as announced on 1 November, we are mandating that Government Departments use a simplified standard pre-qualification questionnaire to reduce the burden on suppliers.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what timetable he has set for Government departments to agree plans of action to increase the number of contracts awarded to small and medium-sized enterprises. [22503]

Mr Maude: We intend to agree actions with individual Departments once baseline figures for SMEs in procurement are published later this month.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of potential suppliers of Government Departments who completed pre-qualification questionnaires in the last five years received no contracts from any Department in *(a)* that financial year and *(b)* the three financial years following submission of the questionnaire. [22505]

Mr Maude: This information is not held centrally, but, as announced on 1 November, we are mandating that Government Departments use a simplified standard pre-qualification questionnaire to reduce the burden on suppliers.

Members: Correspondence

Kevin Brennan: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when he expects the Cabinet Secretary to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Cardiff West of 20 September 2010 in relation to a Civil Service appointment. [22684]

Mr Maude *[holding answer 8 November 2010]:* A reply was sent to the hon. Member on 4 November 2010.

Public Bodies Bill 2010-2011: Wales

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what recent discussions he has had with Welsh Assembly Government *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials on the likely effects on public bodies in Wales of the implementation of the provisions of the Public Bodies Bill; [21590]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with Welsh Assembly Government *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials on the likely effects of the provisions of the Public Bodies Bill on legislative competences in Wales (i) prior to and (ii) after a referendum on Part 4 of the Government of Wales Act 2006. [21591]

Mr Maude: There has been an extensive process of communication and dialogue with the devolved Administrations in the development of proposals for public bodies reform. Cabinet Office officials have been in regular contact with counterparts in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. I have also corresponded with colleagues in the devolved Administrations on a number of occasions prior to publication of the Public Bodies Bill.

Public Bodies Bill

Mr Marsden: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what consideration he gave to making provision in the Public Bodies Bill [Lords] for changes to the Skills Funding Agency. [22825]

Mr Maude *[holding answer 9 November 2010]:* The scope of the Public Bodies Bill is restricted to non-departmental public bodies, non-ministerial departments and public corporations. The Skills Funding Agency is an Executive Agency of the Department for Business Innovation and Skills and therefore out of scope of the review process and the Bill.

Public Expenditure

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether his Department has established processes to monitor any effects of proposed reductions in its expenditure. [21637]

Mr Maude: My Department is assessing the effects of its spending review settlement.

Voluntary Organisations: Local Government

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether he plans to review the guidelines on commissioning between local government and the voluntary sector. [19873]

Mr Hurd: The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has responsibility for local government. The coalition's programme for government includes a commitment to promote the radical devolution of power and greater financial autonomy to local government and community groups. The Government also run a national training programme for public sector commissioners which includes those from local authorities. The Government will also be building on the work of the Partnership Improvement Programme (PIP), and the new package will develop support to statutory partners and civil society organisations in working together on issues including commissioning practice.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Access to Work Programme

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will extend the Access to Work programme to cover the costs associated with *(a)* attendance at interviews and *(b)* participation in work experience placements and internships. [19994]

Maria Miller: The Access to Work programme can fund the costs of an interpreter or advocate assisting a disabled person to communicate at an interview. There are no plans at present to extend the support available from the programme to cover the costs of travelling to an interview.

The Jobcentre Plus Fares to Interview scheme is available to help disabled people with other costs associated with job interviews including reimbursement of travel expenses, subsistence allowance for longer periods away from home and compensation for loss of earnings.

The Access to Work programme can fund the additional costs of support required to allow a disabled person to take part in a work trial arranged by Jobcentre Plus. Access to Work support is only available to people in paid employment and so does not support work placements or internships where the individual works on a voluntary basis or receives benefits or training allowances.

Bereavement Benefits

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has for the future of bereavement benefits; and if he will make a statement. [21995]

Steve Webb: As is the case for all benefits, bereavement benefits are kept under constant review. Any potential change to bereavement benefits in the future would be considered within the context of wider welfare reform and our commitment to create and deliver a 21st century welfare system.

Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission: Correspondence

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what consideration the Child Support Agency has given to using double-sided printing for its correspondence. [22625]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what consideration the Child Support Agency has given to using double-sided print for its correspondence. [22625]

The vast majority of printed correspondence from the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission's IT systems is produced in bulk by our IT suppliers in their own print centres. Much smaller volumes of correspondence are created by caseworkers in local offices.

Bulk printed correspondence is almost all printed single-sided. However, bilingual letters in English and Welsh are produced double-sided. The Child Support Agency is currently looking for money saving opportunities associated with printed correspondence, including greater use of duplex printing.

The Commission's caseworkers are strongly encouraged to print all correspondence double-sided. We are currently deploying new printers into all local offices that will be set up to print double-sided by default. Installation of these new devices will be completed by April 2011.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Disability Living Allowance

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what consultation he undertook with *(a)* charities, *(b)* third sector organisations and *(c)* other disability organisations prior to his decision to remove the mobility component of disability living allowance for those who live in residential care homes. [20982]

Maria Miller: Local authority contracts with care homes should cover services to meet all a resident's assessed needs, including any assessed mobility needs, so an individual's care support and mobility needs should be met by residential care providers from social care funding. This measure will remove an overlap of public funds while ensuring that resources continue to be targeted at disabled people with the greatest needs.

As part of the spending review all organisations are given the opportunity to contribute to the priorities of the spending review. Across Government, consultation on specific spending review measures was not undertaken. All measures are subject to the parliamentary process, and we are committed to the involvement of charities, third sector organisations and other disability organisations in the ongoing development of policy in these areas.

Employment: Disability

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what impact assessment his Department has undertaken of the *(a)* duty to make reasonable adjustments under the Equality Act 2010, *(b)* disability equality duty under the Equality Act 2010 and *(c)* implementation of Article 27 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; and what mechanisms are in place to ensure his Department's programmes to assist disabled people in employment are compliant with that legislation. [22467]

Maria Miller: The coalition agreement made clear this Government's commitment to equality for disabled people. We believe that disabled people should have the same opportunities as non-disabled people to fully participate in society.

In general, the provisions in the Equality Act 2010 which require reasonable adjustments to be made for disabled people have been carried forward from the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. The Equality Act 2010 introduced a single threshold at which the duty to make reasonable adjustments arises and this change is dealt with in the impact assessment[1] and equality impact assessment[2] of the Equality Act. These assessments also assess the introduction of a new public sector duty, which will replace the existing disability equality duty in April 2011.

The Government Equalities Office is currently consulting on the public sector equality duty. Details of the impact assessment and equality impact assessment are included in the published consultation document[3].

The Government take their obligations under the United Nations convention on the rights of disabled people into account as they develop policies and programmes. The report that Government will make to the United Nations next year will demonstrate how across Departments we have taken forward implementation in respect of article 27 and the convention as a whole.

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) undertakes equality impact assessment on any new policies or changes to existing policies and practice. A well established process helps policy makers develop equality impact assessments based on a strong evidence base. This includes guidance on including information gathered from consultation and involvement with organisations.

Currently, equality impact assessments are being developed for both Work Choice implementation and Access to Work and will appear on the DWP website in due course.

[1] http://www.equalities.gov.uk/pdf/Equality%20Act%20Impact.pdf

[2] http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/other/9780108508714/9780108508714.pdf

[3] Equality Act 2010: The public sector Equality Duty: Promoting equality through transparency:

http://www.equalities.gov.uk/pdf/402461_GEO_EqualityAct2010ThePublicSectorEqualityDuty_acc.pdf

Housing Benefit

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of housing benefit claimants in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* the UK received housing benefit payments of over £20,000 in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [21799]

Steve Webb: Information on annual awards for each housing benefit recipient is not available. At July 2010, our records show that:

(a) In Scotland, there were 840 households receiving housing benefit over £384.62 per week;

(b) In Great Britain, there were 11,230 households receiving housing benefit over £384.62 per week.

Note:

All figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 recipients.

Source:

Single Housing Benefit Extract for July 2010

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the proportion of local housing allowance claimants in *(a)* single rooms, *(b)* one bedroom properties, *(c)* two bedroom properties, *(d)* three bedroom properties and *(e)* four bedroom properties and above whose monthly allowance does not cover the cost of their rental payments; [22090]

(2) what estimate he has made of the average shortfall in cases where local housing allowance does not cover the full rent payable in each region in the latest period for which figures are available; [22091]

(3) what estimate he has made of the average difference between local housing allowance claimed and rent payable by persons whose allowance does not cover the cost of their rental payments in *(a)* all properties and *(b)* properties with (i) a single room, (ii) one bedroom, (iii) two bedrooms, (iv) three bedrooms and (v) four bedrooms or more in the latest period in which figures are available. [22092]

Steve Webb: In August 2009, 48% of those receiving housing benefit under the local housing allowance arrangements had a shortfall in their rent caused by the customer's contractual rent being higher than the appropriate local housing allowance rate.

Work is under way to update this information and we aim to include this in the publication on a "two-year review of the local housing allowance" due out later this year.

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has for the future of the discretionary housing payments budget; and if he will make a statement. [22120]

Steve Webb: We are increasing the Government's contribution to local authorities' discretionary housing payments funds from £20 million to £30 million in 2011-12 and to £60 million a year thereafter. We are currently discussing the allocation of the funding with the local authority associations.

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment his Department has made of the merits of rent controls as a method of reducing expenditure on housing benefit. [22323]

Steve Webb: Policy on rent controls is a matter for the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. However, the Department for Work and Pensions has outlined a range of measures in the June 2010 Budget that are designed to exert a downward pressure on rents and will save around £2 billion per year by 2015-16.

Housing Benefit: Brighton and Lewes

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the likely change in the discretionary housing payment for *(a)* Brighton and Hove City Council and *(b)* Lewes District council in each year of the spending review period. [22121]

Steve Webb: We are reviewing the way in which we allocate the Department's contribution to local authorities' expenditure on discretionary housing payments. In the meantime, we cannot estimate the likely change in contributions to individual local authorities.

Housing Benefit: Down's Syndrome

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to make discretionary housing payments to *(a)* people with Down's syndrome and *(b)* their families to meet housing rental costs. [23078]

Steve Webb: Discretionary housing payments are intended to make up shortfalls in entitlement to benefit where the local authority considers that the person concerned is in need of further help with their housing costs.

Decisions on who should receive these payments are entirely at the local authority's discretion, and It is for the authority to decide what should be awarded in any particular case and how long the award should last. We would expect local authorities to take into account the health and any special support needs of the household.

Housing Benefit: Shared Housing

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether benefit recipients sharing accommodation with unrelated non-benefit recipients will be able to access local housing allowance under his proposed reforms. [21305]

Steve Webb: Those who live in shared accommodation and who are liable for their rent on a commercial basis can continue to receive help from housing benefit, unless their landlord is a close relative who also lives in the property.

Housing Benefit: Wales

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many rooms in houses defined as shared for the purposes of the shared room rate of local housing allowance were available to rent in each broad rental market area in Wales in the latest period for which figures are available. [22321]

Steve Webb: Information on the number of rooms available in shared accommodation in the private rented sector is not available.

Industrial Health and Safety

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of the contribution of trade union safety representatives to the maintenance of health and safety standards in the workplace. [22349]

Chris Grayling: The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) strategy document "The health and safety of Great Britain—Be part of the solution" recognises that involving employees has a positive effect on health and safety performance.

Research indicates that the benefits of effective employee involvement in health and safety come about because it helps employers to manage health and safety in a practical way by:

helping spot risks;

making sure health and safety controls are practical; and

increasing the level of commitment to working in a safe and healthy way.

In organisations where it is not practical to consult individuals directly, having a health and safety representative is beneficial.

Recent HSE analysis of previous survey data indicates that, whether the workplace is unionised or not, employee satisfaction with consultation arrangements has a positive impact on health and safety performance. It also shows that unionised workplaces generally have higher levels of satisfaction with consultation on health and safety matters.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will estimate the number of people in receipt of support for mortgage interest who have mortgages with interest rates higher than 3.63% if he will estimate the proportion of such people who have mortgages with interest rates higher than 3.63% due to having *(a)* low income and *(b)* poor credit history; [22642]

(2) how many people were in receipt of support for mortgage interest payments; and how many such people were also receiving *(a)* pension credit, *(b)* jobseeker's allowance and *(c)* income support on the latest date for which figures are available; [22655]

(3) with reference to his Department's Equality Impact Assessment: Support for Mortgage Interest; page 6, paragraph 1, what the evidential basis is for the estimate that just over half of all support for mortgage interest customers will continue to have their eligible mortgage interest outgoings fully met by their benefit awards; [22720]

(4) with reference to his Department's Equality Impact Assessment: Support for Mortgage Interest; page 7, paragraph 4, if he will give numerical estimates for the references to *(a)* lion's share and *(b)* a relatively small level of arrears. [22721]

Steve Webb: The latest available figures on the number of people claiming support for mortgage interest through income-based jobseeker's allowance, income support and pension credit are from February 2010, and are given as follows.

Caseload (February 2010)	*Number*
Jobseeker's allowance	34,000
Income support	75,000
Pension credit	117,000
All	227,000

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5% samples.

Support for mortgage interest is also payable through awards of income-based employment and support allowance, although the Department does not collect administrative data on how many of these customers would be receiving support for their eligible mortgage interest costs.

The Department does not collect administrative data on the actual mortgage rates paid by support for mortgage interest customers, or data on the proportion of customers with interest rates higher than 3.63% due to having low income or poor credit history.

In November 2009, we received a sample of data on almost 6,000 support for mortgage interest claimants (around 3% of the total caseload) from 16 different mortgage lenders, collected on our behalf by Council of Mortgage Lenders and HM Treasury. While the data are not a statistically robust sample and any results should be considered illustrative, and it is likely that the distribution of mortgage rates will have changed since the data were collected, they can provide a useful insight into the mortgages of support for mortgage interest customers.

This sample indicates that around 115,000 of the current 227,000 support for mortgage interest customers would have mortgage interest rates higher than 3.63%.

Using the same sample, we estimate that just over 50% of support for mortgage interest customers would have mortgage interest liabilities of lower than 3.67% (the April 2010 estimate of the average mortgage rate published by the Bank of England), and therefore continue to have their eligible mortgage interest outgoings fully met by their benefit awards.

Numerical estimates on the proportion of eligible mortgage interest that we would be covered under a standard interest rate of 3.67% are given in table 3 of the equality impact assessment published on the departmental website.

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/support-for-mortgage-interest.pdf

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what cost-benefit analysis his Department has undertaken of the likely effects of the implementation of his proposals to lower the rate of interest used to calculate support for mortgage interest. [22653]

Steve Webb: The standard interest rate used to calculate support for mortgage interest was fixed at 6.08% by the last Administration. That rate was too generous and resulted in the vast majority of people getting more than their eligible mortgage interest liability, which was unfair to taxpayers.

The Chancellor announced in the June 2010 Budget that the standard interest rate would be based on the Bank of England's published monthly average mortgage interest rate. Legislation to introduce this change came into effect from 1 October 2010 and the standard interest rate is currently 3.63%.

The Department conducted thorough analysis on the likely impacts of this change, and we have included as much information as possible in the equality impact assessment published on the Department's website.

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/support-for-mortgage-interest.pdf

Pensioners: Housing Benefit

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many persons in receipt of housing benefit in each *(a)* region and *(b)* constituency are above retirement age. [22413]

Steve Webb: The information is not available at constituency level. A copy of the available information has been placed in the Library.

Social Security Benefits: Disability

Ian Swales: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were in receipt of *(a)* disability living allowance and *(b)* incapacity benefit in Redcar constituency on the latest date for which figures are available. [16534]

Maria Miller: "Caseloads for selected benefits by Parliamentary Constituencies, February 2010" is available in the House of Commons Library and includes figures for incapacity benefit and disability living allowance. The information is reproduced in the following table.

Recipients of disability living allowance and incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance as at February 2010, Redcar parliamentary constituency

	Number
Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance (in payment)	4,600
Disability living allowance (in payment)	6,560

Notes:
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest ten; some additional disclosure control has also been applied.
2. For disability living allowance the totals show the number of people in receipt of the benefit and exclude people with an underlying entitlement but whose payment has been suspended, for example because they are in hospital.
3. A claimant can be in receipt of more than one of these benefits and will therefore be counted for each benefit they receive.
4. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment and support allowance from October 2008.
5. Figures for employment and support allowance are not included.
6. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Livingston constituency receive *(a)* disability living allowance, *(b)* incapacity benefit and *(c)* employment and support allowance. [22070]

Maria Miller: The information requested is in the following table:

Claimants of employment and support allowance, disability living allowance, incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance, Livingston constituency, as of February 2010

	Number
Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance	4,910
Disability living allowance (in payment)	7,870
Employment and support allowance	920

Notes:
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10; some additional disclosure control has also been applied.
2. For disability living allowance, the totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
3. A claimant can be in receipt of more than one of these benefits and will therefore be counted for each benefit they receive.
4. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment and support allowance (ESA) from October 2008.
5. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has assessed the merits of drafting a single form for the application of all medical condition-related benefits. [22465]

Maria Miller: The policy rationale, entitlement conditions and information required for each benefit is different and to cover them all in one form would increase complexity and be unhelpful for the recipient.

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Dartford constituency receive *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* employment and support allowance. [22805]

Maria Miller: At February 2010 there were 2,380 people receiving incapacity benefits, and 660 people receiving employment and support allowance in Dartford constituency.

Notes:

1. The incapacity benefits figure includes incapacity benefit, income support paid on the grounds of incapacity, and severe disablement allowance.

2. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment support allowance (ESA) from October 2008.

3. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10, some additional disclosure has been applied.

4. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.

5. These data are published at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/stats_summary/benefit_new_parlc_table_feb10.xls

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 20 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 766W, on social security benefits: fraud, how many people were involved in the 550 warrant cases; and how many people were involved in more than one of those cases. [19820]

Chris Grayling: The Department seeks an arrest warrant in all circumstances in which a defendant fails to attend a hearing or trial without an explanation acceptable to the court.

The 550 warrants refer to 550 individual defendants.

Of the 550 defendants, none have more than one warrant outstanding for benefit fraud offences.

Statutory Sick Pay

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to extend entitlement to statutory sick pay to employees who are on a phased return to work. [22464]

Chris Grayling: There are no plans to extend entitlement to statutory sick pay to employees who are on a phased return to work.

Statutory sick pay is payable to employees who are unable to work under the terms of their contract. It is not payable for days when an employee does any work under this contract. An employee, who is undertaking a phased return to work, may nonetheless receive statutory sick pay for days that they do not work, provided the qualifying conditions are met.

Unemployment

Miss Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what occasions since his appointment his Department has released to the media figures from each source on the number of people who have never been in employment. [17873]

Chris Grayling: The Department is routinely asked by the media for figures regarding employment, unemployment and economic inactivity and endeavour to provide as much information as possible. We use a variety of sources including:

The DWP national benefits database

Nomis Web:

www.nomisweb.co.uk

Family Resource Survey

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Work Programme

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to ensure that prisoners and ex-offenders are supported into employment through the Work Programme; and whether this objective will be included in contracts with prime contractors. [22659]

Chris Grayling: The Work Programme will provide more personalised back to work support for long-term unemployed individuals, and for those with more significant barriers to employment. We are currently working through the full implications of the spending review for the Work Programme and further announcements, including about support for ex-offenders, will be made in due course.

DWP is also working closely with the Ministry of Justice in developing options for improving cross-departmental co-operation to increase employment and reduce re-offending for individuals leaving prison and those serving community sentences.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Anti-Semitism

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* research and *(b)* programmes he plans to commission for the purposes of tackling anti-Semitism; and if he will make a statement. [22577]

Andrew Stunell: The cross-Government working group to tackle anti-Semitism is currently preparing to publish a three-year on response to the recommendations made by the All Party Inquiry into Anti-Semitism. Once this report has been published we will reassess what still needs to be done and commission research and develop a programme of action accordingly.

Departmental Early Retirement

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have been offered enhanced early retirement packages in each of the last three years. [22021]

Robert Neill: The numbers of staff who left DCLG and its agencies with enhanced early retirement packages in each of the last three years is shown in the following table.

	DCLG	*Agencies*
2007-08	43	<5
2008-09	11	9
2009-10	27	<5

The data for the agencies, Planning Inspectorate, QEII Conference Centre, and the Fire Service College, have been combined owing to the very small numbers involved.

European Aeronautic Defence and Space Company: Contracts

Bob Blackman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the oral evidence taken by the Communities and Local Government Committee on 13 September 2010, HC 453-i, Q109, what progress has been made in rectification of failures in the mapping data and directions provided by EADS to the fire service under contract. [21414]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 2 November 2010]:* A significant number of issues still remain with the mapping and routing products provided by EADS under the FiReControl contract.

The Fire and Rescue Services (FRS) using the interim version of the software supplied by EADS for on-board computers in fire appliances are still waiting for updated mapping data formatted for these devices. EADS has now supplied the Department for Communities and Local Government with a further draft plan which would allow roll-out to start early in the new year.

My officials received an updated proposal from EADS regarding the solution for routing fire appliances to incidents. Many of the problems highlighted by the Secretary of State would not be satisfactorily resolved under this proposal, including, for example, reliable and consistent use of the dimensions of the fire appliance in setting a suitable route and easy adjustment of the recommended route if the crew on board find an unexpected blockage.

The issue with the gazetteer information showing West Yorkshire addresses as located in Wakefield appears to have been resolved by an EADS software maintenance release. However there is now a significant problem with this product in the way it handles FRS changes.

Fire Services: Emergency Calls

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to improve fire service emergency response times; and whether he plans to bring forward proposals for new national standards for fire service response times. [22789]

Robert Neill: The onus is on individual fire and rescue authorities to consider strategies to mitigate the effect of increased levels of traffic, which research has shown to be the main factor accounting for increased response times. That will include liaising with partners such as local authorities and the Highways Agency, and applying locally appropriate measures such as green wave traffic light systems, GPS and improved local knowledge of fire crews, and use of secondary fire vehicles and reduced response to low risk incidents.

Response target-setting is a matter for individual fire and rescue authorities under Integrated Risk Management Planning (IRMP), according to local requirements and circumstances, and is not something that central government should direct or determine. The government has no plans to reintroduce national standards for fire and rescue service response times. Decisions made by local politicians and practitioners according to local circumstances will be more effective than blanket requirements across the country.

However, if the service chose to place consistent standards upon itself, then equally that is not something that central Government would seek to intervene in.

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average fire service emergency response times were for each fire service in the latest period for which figures are available. [22790]

Robert Neill: Average response times for fires in buildings for each fire and rescue service are shown in the table for the latest period for which fire and rescue incident data are available.

Average response times[1] by fire and rescue services, England[2], April 2009 to March 2010

	Dwelling fires[3]	Other building fires
Avon	7.5	8.1
Bedfordshire	7.6	8.0
Berkshire	7.5	8.3
Buckinghamshire[2]	—	—
Cambridgeshire	9.1	9.5
Cheshire	8.4	8.9
Cleveland	5.6	6.1
Cornwall	11.0	10.2
Cumbria	8.6	8.8
Derbyshire	7.5	8.2
Devon and Somerset	9.3	9.1
Dorset	8.4	9.5
Durham	8.0	7.8
East Sussex	7.1	7.4
Essex	8.1	9.0
Gloucestershire	9.5	9.0
Greater London	6.2	6.2
Greater Manchester[2]	—	—
Hampshire	7.2	7.3
Hereford and Worcester	8.9	9.5
Hertfordshire	7.7	7.4
Humberside	7.0	7.9
Isle of Wight	9.0	7.1
Isles of Scilly	—	9.0
Kent	6.9	7.9
Lancashire	6.8	7.3
Leicestershire	7.9	8.6
Lincolnshire	9.1	9.4
Merseyside	5.6	5.7
Norfolk	8.9	8.7
North Yorkshire	8.9	9.8
Northamptonshire	8.2	8.6
Northumberland	9.4	9.7
Nottinghamshire	6.6	7.0
Oxfordshire	9.5	9.0
Shropshire	8.8	9.4
South Yorkshire	7.4	7.7
Staffordshire	8.2	8.6
Suffolk	8.9	10.1
Surrey	8.5	8.5
Tyne and Wear	5.3	5.5
Warwickshire	9.0	7.7
West Midlands	6.6	6.8
West Sussex	8.7	9.6
West Yorkshire	6.8	6.9
Wiltshire	9.3	10.3
England[1]	7.3	7.9

[1] As per previous figures, excludes fires where (i) there was heat and smoke damage only, (ii) the call was made after the fire was known extinguished, (iii) where the response time calculated gives an hour or more.

[2] Excludes Greater Manchester and Buckinghamshire as data provided were incomplete.

[3] In order to be consistent with data source prior to April 2009, chimney fires not included in calculation.

Fire Services: Redundancy

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has made an assessment of the number of fire service jobs that would be lost as a result of the implementation of the proposals contained within the comprehensive spending review. [22788]

Robert Neill: As fire service jobs are a local matter, determined by individual fire and rescue authorities, no formal assessment has been undertaken by the Department for Communities and Local Government. I also refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland (Tom Blenkinsop) on 25 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 88-89W.

Local Development Frameworks: Greater London

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he plans to take to enable London councils to revise their local development frameworks. [23025]

Robert Neill: All local planning authorities have a duty to keep their development plans under review and have the power to revise them when they feel this is appropriate and beneficial for their area, taking account of local circumstances.

Public Expenditure

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has established processes to monitor any effects of proposed reductions in its expenditure. [21639]

Robert Neill: The Department is following guidance issued by the Government Equalities Office on publishing its Equality Impact Assessments as part of the spending review. The results of the assessments will be published in due course.

The Chancellor announced as part of the spending review in October that each Government Department will publish a business plan setting out the details of its reform plans. As required, the DCLG business plan will include key indicators against which we will publish data to show the cost and impact of departmental activities. The indicators will be published for consultation to ensure that we have the most relevant and robust indicators in time for the beginning of the spending review period in April 2011.

Regeneration: Newcastle upon Tyne

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions his Department has had with Newcastle city council on the refurbishment of the Byker estate; and what consideration he has given to the recommendations of the report by Professor Peter Roberts. [22962]

Andrew Stunell: My Department together with the Homes and Communities Agency has held a number of recent meetings with representatives from Newcastle city council, its ALMO Your Homes Newcastle, and the Byker Steering Group. The aim of the meetings is to deliver, as Professor Peter Roberts's report recommends, a sustainable long term future for the Byker estate. The primary focus of the discussions is to ensure that the proposed scheme is both deliverable and achieves value for money for Government.

Social Rented Housing

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of new social housing tenants are in employment. [22096]

Andrew Stunell: Information on the number of households receiving social housing is collected through the continuous recording of lettings form (CORE). Historically CORE has only collected information from registered social landlords, though a number of local authorities are now also providing information through this process.

In 2008-09, 26% of new social housing tenants were in employment.

This figure relates to the main householder and is based on the total number of new tenants in LA/RSL general needs and supported housing in full-time or part-time work expressed as a proportion of the total who provided their economic status.

Further information on social lettings is published in the live tables at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/rentslettings/livetables/

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the average income of households in social housing in each region in the latest period for which figures are available. [22100]

Andrew Stunell *[holding answer 4 November 2010]:* The following table shows the most recent estimates of median and mean net (disposable) household income for social renters.

Disposable income is gross income less income tax, national insurance contributions, local government taxes and certain other deductions. The estimates have also been "equivalised" for household size and composition.

Income of households by region for the social rented sector, 2006-07 to 2008-09

£ per week, 2008-09 prices

Region	*Median*	*Mean*
North East	280	303
North West	289	307
Yorkshire and the Humber	286	305
East Midlands	276	295
West Midlands	287	307
East of England	295	313
London	308	304
South East	308	291
South West	297	296
England	293	316

Notes:

1. The original source for these estimates is the Family Resources Survey. The income measures used to derive the estimates employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
2. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. Three sample years have been combined as regional single year estimates are subject to volatility.
4. The figures are based on OECD equivalisation factors.
5. Median household incomes are more commonly used in analysis as these are less affected by outliers.
6. Incomes are presented in 2008-09 prices and have been rounded to the nearest pound sterling.

Social Rented Housing: Eltham

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes in Eltham constituency identified as eligible for improvements under the Decent Homes programme have not yet had such improvements made; and if he will take steps to ensure that funding for such improvements is made available to the London borough of Greenwich. [23093]

Andrew Stunell: The available data apply to the London borough of Greenwich and there is no breakdown by constituency. At April 2010, 4,947 council homes in the London borough of Greenwich did not meet the decent homes standard. This is forecast to fall to 392 by April 2011.

In the spending review, the Government announced that they will spend £1.6 billion on tackling non-decent council housing. My Department and the Homes and Communities Agency will be consulting local authorities on the process for allocating capital funding shortly.

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to implement obligations under Articles 9, 11 and 19 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in relation to his Department's policy responsibilities. [21128]

Grant Shapps: The Department for Communities and Local Government is committed to the UN convention on rights of persons with disabilities and to improving outcomes for disabled people. The Department is currently further considering its responsibilities against the expectations of the convention, and the UK report to the UN next year will describe how implementation is being achieved.

A number of measures exist or are being taken forward by DCLG which support various convention articles, for example:

> Part M (Access to and use of buildings) of the Building Regulations sets out a series of requirements to ensure that reasonable provision is made to meet the needs of disabled people where building work is undertaken in both commercial and residential buildings. In order to support delivery of more accessible and adaptable housing the Lifetime Home Standard will remain an important element of the Code for Sustainable Homes.
>
> The allocation legislation provides that people who need to move house on medical and welfare grounds, including grounds relating to a disability, must be given 'reasonable preference' (i.e. priority) for social housing.
>
> Home Ownership for people with Long-term Disabilities (HOLD) is a shared ownership scheme, to help those whose needs are not met elsewhere.
>
> The Disabled Facilities Grant provides the funding to help disabled and older people to make adaptations so they can carry on living in their own homes.
>
> The spending review 2010 announced that the reform of the council housing finance system will build in the resources needed to carry out future disabled housing adaptations required in the council housing stock.

TREASURY

Child Benefit

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of households in *(a)* Liverpool, West Derby constituency, *(b)* Liverpool and *(c)* the UK to be affected by his proposed changes to the administration of child benefit. [22857]

Mr Gauke: Information on household income for child benefit claimants is not available at parliamentary constituency or city level.

Child Benefit: Durham

Pat Glass: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the number of households in North West Durham constituency which will be affected by the proposed withdrawal of child benefit from families with a higher rate taxpayer. [22595]

Mr Gauke: Information on household income for child benefit claimants is not available at parliamentary constituency level.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has established processes to monitor any effects of proposed reductions in its expenditure. [21632]

Justine Greening: "Spending Review 2010" (Cm 7942) sets out details of the spending settlement for HM Treasury which will achieve overall resource savings of 33% in real terms by 2014-15. In line with all Departments, Treasury has published a business plan and will report publicly against the plan.

Directors: Fraud

Helen Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what mechanism he has put in place to prevent individuals setting up new businesses when their previous business has collapsed because of fraudulent activity. [23074]

Mr Davey: I have been asked to reply.

Our enforcement regime provides for the disqualification of directors of a limited company which has entered an insolvency procedure, if misconduct or reckless or fraudulent behaviour has been proved. A disqualification order prevents a person from acting in the management of a limited company for a period of between two and 15 years, depending on the seriousness of the misconduct. In 2009-10 more than five directors a day were disqualified. In addition, section 216 of the Insolvency Act 1986 places restrictions on the re-use of a company name by the same directors. Breach of the section is a criminal offence.

If an individual wishes to set him or herself up in business in their own name (i.e. not under the guises of a limited company) then there are no restrictions in place, unless the individual is bankrupt or a debt relief order moratorium is in force.

National Insurance Contributions: New Businesses

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on extending National Insurance exemptions on new jobs to areas of the South East which have low levels of employment and high levels of social deprivation. [23108]

Mr Gauke: The regional employer national insurance contributions holiday for new businesses is targeted on countries and regions within the UK where reliance on public sector employment is highest. For practical reasons the Government have no plans to introduce national insurance contribution exemptions for smaller geographical units.

Official Cars: Expenditure

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department has spent on the Government Car Service since the Government took office. [7955]

Justine Greening: The Treasury spent £70,696 (including spending in fulfilment of pre existing contractual commitments) with the Government Car Service for all car services for both Ministers and officials between 12 May 2010 and 12 July 2010. In 2009-10, the Department spent £98,145 with the Government Car Service for both Ministers and officials in an average two month period.

Public Expenditure

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the scale is on the vertical axis on the graph on page 13 of the spending review 2010 document. [21842]

Justine Greening *[holding answer 4 November 2010]*: The vertical axis on chart 1.1 on page 13 of the spending review 2010 document starts at 33% of GDP and goes up to 49% of GDP. Each line on the vertical axis represents an additional 1% of GDP.

Public Expenditure: Scotland

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has had discussions with the Scottish Executive on the future of end-year flexibility. [22042]

Danny Alexander: In the context of the Respect agenda, Treasury Ministers meet with Ministers from the Scottish Government from time to time to discuss issues of common interest. The issue of EYF was discussed at the most recent Finance Ministers Quadrilateral in September.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Scottish Executive will retain access to end-year flexibility throughout the comprehensive spending review period. [22043]

Danny Alexander: The spending review announced that the EYF scheme is being abolished at the end of 2010-11, including all accumulated stocks, and replaced by a new system from 2011-12. In the context of developing the new system the Government recognises the special status of the Scottish Executive and the other devolved Administrations. Further detail will be set out later this financial year.

Public Sector: Females

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will undertake an assessment of the likely effects on women of anticipated reductions in the number of jobs in the public sector in the next four years; and if he will make a statement. [21768]

Danny Alexander: On 20 October 2010 the Treasury published an overview of the impact of the spending review on men and women, people from ethnic minorities and people with disabilities.

It will be for individual employers to determine the exact work force implications of their settlements. It is the responsibility of Departments to ensure that equality issues are considered when assessing options for spending reductions.

Tax Allowances: Breweries

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has for future duty relief arrangements for small breweries. [22265]

Justine Greening: Breweries producing less than 60,000 hectolitres per annum continue to benefit from a reduced rate of duty under the small breweries relief that was introduced in 2002.

Decisions about tax policy are a matter for the Chancellor as part of the Budget process.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Northumberland

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders have been *(a)* made and *(b)* breached in (i) Wansbeck constituency and (ii) Northumberland in the latest period for which figures are available. [22928]

James Brokenshire: Data collected centrally by the Ministry of Justice on the number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued and breached are collated at criminal justice system (CJS) area level, rather than constituency or county area level. Northumberland which includes Wansbeck is in the Northumbria CJS area.

The latest figures cover the period to 31 December 2008, and show that for the Northumbria CJS area 37 ASBOs were issued and 29 were proved in court to have been breached for the first time in 2008.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Peterborough

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders were *(a)* made and *(b)* breached in the Criminal Justice System area covering the Peterborough city council area in each year since 2005; and if she will make a statement. [22914]

James Brokenshire: Data collected centrally by the Ministry of Justice on the number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued and breached are collated at Criminal Justice System (CJS) area level.

The latest figures cover the period to 31 December 2008, and show that for the Cambridgeshire CJS area, which includes Peterborough city council area:

in 2005, 50 ASBOs were issued, and 13 were proved in court to have been breached for the first time;

in 2006, 31 ASBOs were issued, and 14 were proved in court to have been breached for the first time;

in 2007, 20 ASBOs were issued, and 13 were proved in court to have been breached for the first time; and

in 2008, 34 ASBOs were issued, and 13 were proved in court to have been breached for the first time.

Antisocial Behaviour: Crime Prevention

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department has made an assessment of the effectiveness of Mosquito devices in reducing antisocial behaviour. [22784]

James Brokenshire: The Mosquito device is a commercial product and is not endorsed by the Home Office or the Association of Chief Police Officers.

This Government believe that it is for local agencies dealing with antisocial behaviour to decide whether or not to use the Mosquito device in their area and to undertake any appropriate assessments. The Home Office has not undertaken its own assessment.

Crime: Summertime

Rebecca Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the potential effects on the incidence of crime of adopting daylight saving time. [22764]

James Brokenshire: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has not made any assessment of the potential effects of adopting daylight saving time on the incidence of crime.

Entry Clearances: Taiwan

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward proposals for a Working Holiday Scheme with Taiwan to increase cultural understanding between the UK and Taiwan; and if she will make a statement. [22196]

Damian Green: We operate a Youth Mobility Scheme for the purpose of cultural exchanges between young people. To qualify, a country needs to meet certain eligibility criteria. It is open to any country which believes it meets the criteria for acceptance on the scheme to enter into discussions with us about reciprocal arrangements.

The eligibility criteria relate to:

(a) a low level of immigration risk and not being a country subject to a mandatory UK visa regime;

(b) satisfactory returns arrangements; and

(c) reciprocal opportunities for UK nationals.

Illegal Immigrants: East Ayrshire

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal immigrants to the UK have *(a)* been identified in and *(b)* deported from Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [22959]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency is unable to specify where an individual was encountered when they were served papers as an illegal immigrant. It is only possible to report on their last known address and their current immigration status.

Between 1 October 2009 and 30 September 2010, 10 individuals were identified as illegal immigrants residing in the Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituency. During this period, nine illegal immigrants resident in Kilmarnock and Loudoun were removed from the United Kingdom.

All figures quoted are internal management information only and are subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

Immigration Controls: English Language

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when her Department notified accreditation boards of proposals to change English for Speakers of Other Languages requirements for *(a)* indefinite leave to remain and *(b)* application for regularisations and nationalisation as British citizens; [22775]

(2) which *(a)* accreditation boards and *(b)* other organisations she consulted on the English for Speakers of Other Languages requirements for (i) indefinite leave to remain and (ii) application for regularisations and nationalisation as British citizens prior to laying the statement of Changes in Immigration Rules before the House on 18 March 2010. [22776]

Damian Green: There was not a formal consultation on the changes introduced by the previous Government. The accreditation bodies were sent copies of the revised guidance on 13 April and the UK Border Agency continues to work with them to ensure the policy is implemented.

Intercept Modernisation Programme

Mr David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what arrangements she plans to make to safeguard the privacy of individuals under the continued intercept modernisation programme. [20754]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 1 November 2010]:* Access to communications data is primarily regulated by the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA), which places strict rules on when, and by whom, the data can be accessed. The use of communications data is also regulated by the Data Protection Act and the Human Rights Act. Data are disclosed only on a case-by-case basis to designated public authorities under strict safeguards which require that the disclosure is necessary and proportionate to the lawful purpose of an investigation. We will legislate to ensure that the programme accords with the Government's approach to civil liberties.

Mr David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to bring forward legislative proposals to provide that data stored by service providers under the intercept modernisation programme will be accessible only on presentation of a warrant; and if she will make a statement. [20755]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 1 November 2010]:* As made clear in the strategic defence and security review, the Government will continue to build on an existing programme of work to preserve the ability of the law enforcement, security and intelligence agencies to obtain communications data and to intercept communications within the appropriate legal framework. We will legislate to ensure this is compatible with the Government's approach to civil liberties and use of communications capabilities. Details of this legislation will be announced in Parliament in due course.

Khat

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether her Department is considering the classification of khat under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971; and if she will make a statement; [22817]

(2) what recent discussions she has had with the Association of Chief Police Officers on the implications for public order of the use of khat. [22820]

James Brokenshire: In line with the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs' (ACMD) statutory duty under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, I have written to the ACMD asking for it to review the available evidence relating to the harms of khat and provide advice, in relation to both control, under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, and a wider response.

I have had a number of meetings and discussions with representatives of the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO). These discussions have not, to date, covered the issue of khat.

Proceeds of Crime

Guy Opperman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to increase the proportion of criminal assets which are recovered. [19736]

James Brokenshire: The Government are committed to improving overall performance on recovering assets from criminals. We are already encouraging the full and efficient use of the existing powers, in particular under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, and will provide more detail of our plans to further disrupt criminal finances in due course.

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who is responsible for meeting expenses incurred through operations to recover money under the provisions of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002. [23012]

James Brokenshire: Law enforcement agencies meet costs of recovering criminal assets from within their budgets. However they also receive a share of the money they recover under the Proceeds of Crime Act as part of the Asset Recovery Incentivisation Scheme.

Receivers who manage and realise assets to satisfy orders made under the Proceeds of Crime Act meet their remuneration and expenses from the assets that they manage and sell.

The Home Office also directly funds nine multi-agency Regional Asset Recovery Teams at a cost of £10.5 million per annum, which assist agencies to recover money under the provisions of the Proceeds of Crime Act.

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on average what proportion of the money recovered through the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 which was allocated to the police force that carried out the recovery in the latest period for which figures are available. [23013]

James Brokenshire: Under the current Asset Recovery Incentivisation Scheme 50% of all money recovered under the Proceeds of Crime Act is returned to front-line partners. How these funds are distributed will depend on the relevant part of the Act that is used.

For confiscation orders, the relevant police force receives 18.75% of money recovered with 18.75% being returned to the relevant prosecutor and 12.5% being returned to Her Majesty's Courts Service.

For money recovered through the cash forfeiture route, the relevant police force receives the full 50% of the total collected.

Strategic Defence and Security Review

Mr David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consultation she undertook prior to the announcement on the continued use of the intercept modernisation programme as part of the Strategic Defence and Security Review. [20753]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 1 November 2010]:* As made clear in the strategic defence and security review, the Government will continue to build on an existing programme of work to preserve the ability of the law enforcement, security and intelligence agencies to obtain communications data and to intercept communications within the appropriate legal framework. We will legislate to ensure this is compatible with the Government's approach to civil liberties and use of communications capabilities. As part of this, the results of the 2009 consultation on Communication Data were reviewed, advice from the law enforcement agencies and the security and intelligence agencies were considered and discussions with the Information Commissioner's Office have been ongoing throughout this process.

UK Border Agency: Passports

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many passports the UK Borders Agency declared lost through its own actions in 2009; and what the cost to the public purse was of replacing such documents. [21361]

Damian Green: Information relating to the number of passports the UK Border Agency (UKBA) declared lost through its own actions in 2009 and the cost of replacing such documents is not currently recorded centrally. UKBA is currently considering the most appropriate way in which to improve the system it uses currently to record such information and to minimise the loss of documents in general and passports in particular.

Vetting: Complaints

Amber Rudd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) on how many occasions a dispute against the outcome of *(a)* a standard and *(b)* an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check was upheld in the latest period for which figures are available; [22695]

(2) on how many occasions the outcome of *(a)* a standard and *(b)* an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check was disputed by the subject of the check in the latest period for which figures are available; [22696]

Lynne Featherstone: The following tables detail a breakdown of how many times disputes against the outcomes of a Standard and Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) were upheld since March 2010 to August 2010 (Table A) and how many times the outcomes of standard and enhanced checks were disputed by the subject of the check from 2009-10 to present (Table B).

An upheld dispute does not mean an individual has been incorrectly associated with a criminal record. The outcome of an upheld dispute can involve the amendment of a single word such as an individual's name.

Table A—Upheld disputes

Certificate type	*March 2010*	*April 2010*	*May 2010*	*June 2010*	*July 2010*	*August 2010*	*Total*
Enhanced	205	164	135	158	189	108	959
Standard	20	30	27	13	15	8	113
Total	225	194	162	171	204	116	113

Table B Dispute applications

Certificate type	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*Total*
Enhanced	5,641	2,797	8,438
Standard	1,386	523	1,909
Total	7,027	3,320	10,347

Vetting: Standards

Amber Rudd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* standard and *(b)* enhanced Criminal Records Bureau checks took longer than the respective guideline times in the latest period for which figures are available. [22697]

Lynne Featherstone: The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) published service standards (PSS) are that 90% of enhanced CRB checks are issued within 28 days. The CRB received 326,401 in the month of September 2010. Of these 238,402 (87% against the 90% PSS) were processed within the PSS and 88,359 were issued outside the PSS by one day or more.

The length of time a CRB check can take to process can include "time out with customer". This occurs when the CRB has to contact the registered body (RB) for additional information about the applicant, when the application form has not been completed correctly or where the police require additional clarification about the applicant's identity. The CRB cannot continue to process the application until the RB provides this information; or the applicant resolves any question of identity to the satisfaction of the police force.

There are a number of other factors that can affect the timely completion of CRB checks, including but not restricted to the length of time it can take for an employer to deal with the initial application; the accurate completion of the application form; the clarity of the information provided; the existence of conviction or non-conviction information; any ongoing or outstanding criminal investigations or proceedings; where more than one force holds relevant information and the operational effectiveness of the disclosure units of the police forces involved in the CRB checking process.

The CRB have been working with police forces through joint operational performance reviews, to address the problems associated with delays and the impact that exceptional demand for CRB checks can have on police forces. The CRB has set up improvement plans with those forces that have been having problems meeting the demand for certificates. This is aimed at maintaining a steady output of applications on the system while also reducing the number of outstanding cases that have been with police forces for more than 25 days.

HEALTH

Blood: Contamination

Dr Phillip Lee: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 1 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 630W, on blood: contamination, (1) for what reasons his Department answered the 13 requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in part; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the responses his Department gave to those who submitted the requests; [22656]

(2) for what reasons his Department rejected or withheld information in response to each of the eight requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the responses his Department gave to those who submitted the requests. [22657]

Anne Milton: The Department will place a copy of each of the responses in the Library to the requests in which it either answered in part or withheld information. All enclosures accompanying the requests as answered in part will be placed on the Department's website at the following address:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/FreedomOfInformation/Freedomofinformationpublicationschemefeedback/FOIreleases/index.htm

Of the 12 requests[1] made under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000 answered in part, information was withheld as exempt under the provisions of the FOIA from disclosure as follows[2]:

four instances withheld as exempt from disclosure under Section 12;

two instances withheld as exempt from disclosure under Section 21;

one instance withheld as exempt from disclosure under Section 22;

one instance withheld as exempt from disclosure under Section 28;

one instance withheld as exempt from disclosure under Section 32;

one instance withheld as exempt from disclosure under Section 34;

one instance withheld as exempt from disclosure under Section 35;

one instance withheld as exempt from disclosure under Section 36;

seven instances withheld as exempt from disclosure under Section 40; and

one instance withheld as exempt from disclosure under Section 42.

Of the eight requests made under FOIA rejected or withheld, information was withheld as exempt under the provisions of the FOIA from disclosure as follows:

six instances withheld as exempt from disclosure under Section 12;

one instance withheld as exempt from disclosure under Section 22; and

one instance withheld as exempt from disclosure under Section 36.

Since 2007, over 5,500 documents relating to contaminated blood and blood products have been placed on the Department's website. Only five have been withheld because they contain personal information. If further documents from this period are identified, they will similarly be published.

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[1] Pursuant to my previous answer, 1 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 630W, a further examination of the information held by the Department has identified that one request previously identified as being "answered in part" does not relate to the contamination of blood products during the 1970s and 1980s.

[2] In some instances more than one exemption applied to the requested information.

CJD: Drugs

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department provides to health authorities on the use of pentosan polysulfate for the treatment of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease; and if he will make a statement. [22818]

Anne Milton: The Department has issued no guidance on the use of pentosan polysulphate to treat variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD). Pentosan polysulphate is not licensed for the treatment of vCJD, therefore its use for this purpose is a clinical decision.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number of doses prescribed and *(b)* cost to the public purse of provision of pentosan polysulfate in each of the last five years. [22819]

Mr Simon Burns: The information collected by the Department does not describe the use of medicines in terms of doses or indicate the medical condition being treated. The following table shows the number prescription items for pentosan polysulfate tablets, written in the United Kingdom or the Isle of Man and dispensed in the community, in England, together with the corresponding physical quantity of tablets, measured in milligrams, and net ingredient cost (NIC).

	Items (Thousand)	*Tablets (Thousand)*	*Milligrams (Thousand)*	*NIC (£000)*
2005	0.3	45.4	4,247.6	63.0
2006	0.3	39.5	3,748.4	70.3
2007	0.2	31.6	2,968.9	72.0
2008	0.3	36.4	3,643.9	84.8
2009	0.3	34.8	3,476.8	155.2

Source:
Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) system.

Use of this drug in hospitals is limited and only the topical form appears in the data. Figures cannot be given under the agreement with the data suppliers.

Departmental Redundancy

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of redundancies arising from the spending reductions proposed in the comprehensive spending review in respect of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies. [21563]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government have announced that administration costs will reduce by a third in real terms across the public sector, including the health sector, and this was reaffirmed in the spending review.

This reduction in administration costs is expected to lead to some redundancies. However the number of redundancies will be closely affected by how the one-third reduction will be distributed across all organisations in the health sector, including primary care trusts, strategic health authorities, the Department and its arm's length bodies; and to what extent staff numbers and costs in all these bodies reduce through natural wastage or redeployments.

Therefore we cannot know for certain at this stage what number of redundancies will arise in each organisation across the health sector.

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of staff redundancy in each of the next four years. [21564]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government have announced that administration costs will reduce by a third in real terms across the public sector, including the health sector, and this was reaffirmed in the spending review.

This reduction in administration costs is expected to lead to some redundancies. However the number of redundancies will be closely affected by how the one-third reduction will be distributed across all organisations in the health sector, including primary care trusts, strategic health authorities, the Department and its arm's length bodies; and to what extent staff numbers and costs in all these bodies reduce through natural wastage or redeployments.

We intend to set out estimates of the cost of redundancies associated with the reduction in administration and management costs in an impact assessment.

Doctors: Career Development

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to *(a)* attract and *(b)* retain good quality junior doctors in the NHS during the spending review period. [22732]

Anne Milton: Management of recruitment to postgraduate medical training is co-ordinated nationally through the Medical Programme Board of Medical Education England in partnership with Royal Colleges, deaneries, lead employers, the United Kingdom Foundation Programme Office and the General Practice National Recruitment Office. These arrangements have proved successful with high fill rates high for most specialties. Medical training is highly competitive with large numbers of doctors competing for vacancies each year. Some trainees do leave training programmes for a variety of reasons, but there is no evidence that this is an increasing trend.

For the longer term, the Department has committed to publishing a consultation on proposals for education and training, based on the principles in the White Paper.

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms will be put in place to ensure effective continuing training for doctors following the termination of primary care trusts. [22738]

Anne Milton: The Department has committed to publishing a consultation on proposals for education and training, based on the principles in the White Paper 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS'.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to allow naltrexone to be administered to prisoners for the purposes of treating substance abuse. [22646]

Paul Burstow: Naltrexone is formally permitted in all adult prisons for the treatment of adult prisoners. Guidance on its use was included in the clinical guidance issued by the Department in 2006: 'Clinical management of drug dependence in the adult prison setting including psychological treatment as a core part'. It is not licensed for treating young offenders.

Naltrexone is also supported for use in the community. Clinical guidelines were issued jointly by the Department and the devolved Administrations in 2007: 'Drug Misuse and dependence: UK Guidelines on Clinical Management'.

Copies of both guidelines have already been placed in the Library.

Health Services: Greater Manchester

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the likely effect on the number of NHS *(a)* front-line staff and *(b)* junior doctors working in Bolton, Bolton West and Greater Manchester areas of the outcomes of the comprehensive spending review. [22739]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government have already signalled their commitment to real year-on-year increases in funding and the need to protect front-line services.

Making highly skilled, professional staff redundant does not make the best use of limited national health service resources—nor does it benefit patients. Therefore, it should be considered only when all other options have been exhausted.

It is local health care organisations, with their knowledge of the health care needs of their local populations, that are best placed to determine the work force required to deliver safe patient care within their available resources.

Khat

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the health effects of the use of khat. [22816]

Anne Milton: In March 2005 the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) was asked to assess the extent of the harm posed by khat use in the United Kingdom, to the individual, their communities and to society as a whole.

The ACMD reported in January 2006.

In October of this year, the Government asked the ACMD to undertake a comprehensive review of the available evidence, to update its assessment and provide the Government with advice.

Kidney Dialysis

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which primary care trusts provide kidney dialysis; and how many NHS patients have received dialysis treatment in the last 12 months. [22927]

Mr Simon Burns: Information is not available in the format requested. Kidney dialysis is a specialised service which is commissioned by regional specialised commissioning groups on behalf of primary care trusts. Dialysis services are provided by 52 renal units in England and their satellites and may be provided at home for suitable patients. There is a list of the United Kingdom renal units on the Renal Association website at:

www.renal.org/whatwedo/InformationResources/RenalUnits.aspx

and the UK Renal Registry publishes an annual report which includes data on incidence and prevalence of people on dialysis. In December 2008, the latest date for which figures are available, 20,913 patients were receiving dialysis in England.

Mental Health Services: Prisons

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what services are available in prisons for the purposes of offering employment support to prisoners with mental health disorders; and what steps he plans to take to ensure the NHS Outcomes Framework encourages prison health services to support more ex-offenders into paid employment following their release from prison. [22658]

Mr Blunt: I have been asked to reply.

There is considerable employment support work undertaken to help prisoners across the NOMS estate. Much of this is undertaken in partnership with the Department for Business Innovation and Skills as well as the Department of Work and Pensions. This support applies to all prisoners and takes into account individual's circumstances—including mental health issues.

NOMS is a co-financing organisation and can draw down European funding. The first round of this funding—which lasts until December 2011 has a target that 46% of participants should have a learning disability/difficulties and offenders with these issues will continue to be given prominence in delivery during round 2 (January 2011 to December 2014) although the target will be regional and not national. There is no specific mental health provision in round 1 for participants with mental health issues, although there may be specific support contained in delivery plans from providers in round 2.

The Government will publish their response to the NHS Outcomes Framework consultation shortly. However, the primary purpose of the NHS Outcomes Framework will be to focus on health outcomes, delivered by the national health service through treatment and health care.

Neuromuscular Diseases: Health Services

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans he has for the delivery of specialist neuromuscular services under the proposed national commissioning board; [22716]

(2) what steps he plans to take to ensure that neuromuscular services improve during the period in which his proposals for the reform of the NHS are implemented; [22717]

(3) what plans he has for the future of the NHS regional specialised commissioning groups; and if he will make a statement; [22718]

(4) what guidelines his Department has issued to NHS regional specialised commissioning groups on investment in specialist neuromuscular services for the purposes of reducing the level of unplanned emergency admissions to hospital for people with neuromuscular conditions. [22719]

Paul Burstow: The White Paper sets out our future intentions for the commissioning of specialised services. It proposes that specialised services, including some for people with neuromuscular conditions, will in future be commissioned by the NHS Commissioning Board.

The White Paper makes it clear that general practitioner (GP) consortia will work closely with secondary care, community partners and other health and care professionals to design joined-up services that are responsive to patients and the public. Commissioning by GP consortia will enable the redesign of care pathways to reflect the needs of their patients, which ultimately will lead to the more effective management of long-term neuromuscular conditions.

The future plans for specialised commissioning groups are currently under consideration as part of the White Paper consultation. The consultation closed on 11 October and we are currently analysing the responses. We will respond to the consultation in due course.

No guidelines have been issued to specialised commissioning groups for the purposes of reducing unplanned emergency admissions to hospital for people with neuromuscular conditions.

NHS: Redundancy

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make an estimate of the likely cost to the NHS of staff redundancy as a result of the spending reductions proposed in the comprehensive spending review. [21577]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government have announced that administration costs will reduce by a third in real terms across the public sector, including the health sector, and this was reaffirmed in the spending review.

This reduction in administration costs is expected to lead to some redundancies. However the number of redundancies will be closely affected by how the one-third reduction will be distributed across all organisations in the health sector, including primary care trusts, strategic health authorities, the Department and its arm's length bodies; and to what extent staff numbers and costs in all these bodies reduce through natural wastage or redeployments.

We intend to set out estimates of the cost of redundancies associated with the reduction in administration and management costs in an impact assessment.

NHS: Voluntary Organisations

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what role he expects voluntary sector organisations to play in the future of the NHS. [22518]

Paul Burstow: Voluntary organisations will continue to make a vital contribution to health and care, not only as the providers of services but also as advocates, partners in the co-design of services and involving and engaging local communities.

Voluntary organisations have valuable expertise, insight and experience that can improve local public services, often for the most excluded people in our communities. The voluntary sector is well placed to support commissioners in developing needs assessments and commissioning guidelines.

Current examples of voluntary sector involvement include Mumsnet who have been particularly valuable in helping to shape maternity services and Turning Point on the Connected Care Audit.

The Department is exploring a range of options to ensure that we can maximise the potential contribution of the voluntary sector. We plan to ensure that commissioners and providers across health care, public health and social care are able to harness the potential role of voluntary sector organisations in communities—helping to build strong and resilient communities as part of the big society.

Commissioning consortia will be able to decide which commissioning activities they undertake for themselves and where they will choose to buy in expertise and support from external organisations, including from voluntary sector organisations. Voluntary organisations could potentially strengthen the process of public and patient engagement and needs assessment through their knowledge and understanding of local people's needs.

As part of the reforms, we aim to free up provision of health care, so that in most sectors of care, any willing provider can provide services that meet national health service standards within NHS prices, giving patients greater choice and ensuring effective competition stimulates innovation, improves quality and increases productivity. We will look across government and public procurement to make sure that charities, voluntary organisations and social enterprises have maximum opportunities to offer health and care services.

We are committed to promoting continuous improvement in the quality of services for patients and greater opportunities for the involvement of voluntary providers in offering more responsive and personalised services.

We are aware that this period of transition will be worrying for voluntary organisations. We are keen, therefore, that primary care trusts (PCTs) engage with all of their stakeholders during this transition period. This includes working in close partnership with all organisations that they hold funding agreements with through both grant and contract arrangements, recognising the principles of the Compact.

It is vitally important that we do not lose vital local services that achieve high quality outcomes and we will therefore work with PCT's in the transition to the new arrangements with the NHS Commissioning Board and general practitioner commissioning consortia, as they develop, to ensure that the sector's contribution to improved health, public health and social care is recognised.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress he has made on the phasing out of prescription charges for patients with long-term conditions following the outcome of the comprehensive spending review; and if he will make a statement. [23095]

Mr Simon Burns: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave on 25 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 126W, to the hon. Member for Hartlepool (Mr Wright).

Social Services: West Sussex

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will meet West Sussex county council's cabinet members for adults' services and future finance and resources to discuss the likely effects of demographic changes in West Sussex on *(a)* the provision of and *(b)* eligibility for adult social care in that area. [22560]

Paul Burstow: The spending review recognises the importance of social care in protecting most vulnerable in society. In recognition of the pressures on the social care system in a challenging local government settlement, the coalition Government have allocated an additional £2 billion by 2014-15 to support the delivery of social care. This means, with an ambitious programme of efficiency, that there is enough funding available both to protect people's access to services and deliver new approaches to improve quality and outcomes.

We have achieved this by:

the national health service transferring some funding from the health capital budget to health revenue, to be spent on measures that support social care, which also benefits health. This funding will rise to £1 billion in 2014-15, and will promote improved joint working between the health and social care systems. Further details will be set out in the NHS Operating Framework 2011-12; and

additional grant funding, rising to £1 billion by 2014-15, will be made available for social care. This funding will be allocated in addition to the Department's existing social care grants, which will rise in line with inflation. Total grant funding from the Department for social care will reach £2.4 billion by 2014-15. In order to support local flexibility and to reduce administrative burdens, this funding will go to authorities through the revenue support grant.

I recently attended the National Children and Adult Social Care Conference where I met with 11 members and directors of Adult Social Care to discuss the impact of the Government's decision to prioritise social care in the spending review.

Pressures on my diary mean that I am unable to accept the request for a meeting, but if the hon. Member or representatives from West Sussex county council have any questions about the spending review settlement, I would welcome correspondence on this matter.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 18 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 595-6W, on apprentices, if he will publish the feedback provided by the Apprenticeship Ambassador Network since 2006; and what steps *(a)* current Ministers, *(b)* previous Ministers and *(c)* the Skills Funding Agency and its predecessor organisations have taken as a result of advice from the Network. [23045]

Mr Hayes: The primary role of the Apprenticeship Ambassadors Network (AAN) is to promote greater employer engagement with apprenticeships. I welcome the contribution which the AAN gives to the apprenticeship programme, both as our eyes and ears in respect of the quality of apprenticeships and the delivery system; and as ambassadors to encourage others to offer apprenticeships.

In this time of fiscal restraint, it is both important and powerful to have such blue chip businesses and business leaders championing apprenticeships to employers, and therefore the role of the AAN becomes increasingly important. The AAN has provided valuable advice and feedback to Ministers and others since its creation in 2006. Issues covered have included:

the skills strategy and the contribution of apprenticeships;

apprenticeship framework design, content and levels of qualification;

careers advice and guidance;

reducing bureaucracy;

diversity;

pay;

role and function of the National Apprenticeship Service;

online vacancy matching service; and

progression to HE.

This is achieved through Ministers attending AAN meetings at which employer engagement and policy issues are discussed, Ministers and senior officials speaking at events hosted by members, correspondence and meetings on specific issues and the AAN responding to BIS and other consultation exercises. The feedback of the AAN helps to ensure that the programme is fit for purpose, that numbers increase and quality continues to improve.

The AAN has also commissioned work in two important areas to inform the policy debate: the net benefit to employer investment in apprenticeships (IER 2008) and a comparative international study of apprenticeships (CEP, 2010). These reports, alongside details of the AAN's work and membership, minutes of meetings, consultation responses, letters and speeches are all published on the AAN website: www.employersforapprentices.gov.uk. I am happy for this to include correspondence between myself and the AAN in the future.

CJD: Research

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills for what research projects into Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease the Medical Research Council has provided funding in each of the last three years; and what the outcomes of those projects were. [22954]

Mr Willetts: The Medical Research Council (MRC) has funded basic research into transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs) including Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) since the late 1970s. The MRC continues to fund research across the spectrum from basic biological studies through to applied clinical research.

In the last three years, MRC expenditure on TSE was as follows:

2007/08: £6.8 million

2008/09: £8.9 million

2009/10 : £9.9 million.

Much of this research is conducted by the MRC Prion Unit, an international centre of excellence focussing principally on human prion disease, as well as through other TSE researchers working in universities throughout the UK. As this research is still ongoing, it is too early to report on outcomes. MRC welcomes proposals in all areas of TSE research and particularly in the development of new diagnostic tests and therapeutics. In addition, MRC encourages TSE research that may also inform on the basic mechanisms of other neurodegenerative disorders.

A list of the relevant research projects that have received MRC funding, between 2007/8 and 2009/10 is below. Further information on these projects, as well as other research supported by the MRC can be found at:

http://www.mrc.ac.uk/ResearchPortfolio/index.htm

Reference	*Principal investigator*	*Research organisation*	*Research project*
G0301136	Professor V H Perry	University of Southampton	Prion strains and behaviour
G0501636	Dr V 0 Connor	University of Southampton	Molecular and cellular basis of synaptic dysfunction in the ME7 model of prion disease (TSE highlight)
G0600953	Professor J Ironside	University of Edinburgh	The NCJDSU Tissue Resource: support for continued banking activities
G0700640	Professor J Manson	BBSRC Roslin Institute	Assessing the risk of transmission of vCJD via blood transfusion and identifying potential for diagnosis and prevention
G0700877	Dr S Tabrizi	Institute of Neurology	Cellular mechanisms of prion-mediated neurodegeneration
G0701068	Mrs C F Farquhar	University of Edinburgh	Refining the clinical use of pentosan polysulphate for TSEs: animal models of intravenous infection and intervention
G9824728	Professor N Hooper	University of Leeds	Amyloid precursor protein and prion protein: cellular functions, processing and roles in neurodegeneration
G0802189	Professor N M Hooper	University of Leeds	Alzheimers and prion diseases: cellular and genetic mechanisms of neurodegeneration
G0900580	Professor J Ironside	University of Edinburgh	The NCJDSU Tissue Resource: support for continued banking activities
U105260794	Professor S M Bird	MRC Biostatistics Unit	Transmissible disease epidemiology and statistical science in public health, criminal justice and performance monitoring
U122886350	Professor J Collinge	MRC Clinical Trials Unit	Communicable diseases - human prion disease and malaria
U123160651	Dr S Mead	MRC Prion Unit	Human molecular genetics and bioinformatics
U123160652	Dr S E Lloyd	MRC Prion Unit	Prion genetic modifiers in the mouse
U123160653	Dr E A Asante	MRC Prion Unit	Transgenic modelling of human prion diseases, intermammalian transmission barriers and assessing candidate therapeutics
U123160654	Professor G Mallucci	MRC Prion Unit	Normal cellular function of PrP: study of PrP null mice and conditional gene expression studies
U123160655	Dr J Wadsworth	MRC Prion Unit	Molecular and phenotypic analysis of human prion strains

Reference	*Principal investigator*	*Research organisation*	*Research project*
U123160656	Professor A R Clarke	MRC Prion Unit	Structural studies of prion proteins and their ligand interactions
U123160657	Professor M Alpers	MRC Prion Unit	Kuru Field Studies in Papua New Guinea
U123170362	Dr G S Jackson	MRC Prion Unit	Molecular diagnostic strategies in prion disease
U123182016	Dr P Klein	MRC Prion Unit	Cellular mechanisms of prion propagation
U123192748	Professor J Collinge	MRC Prion Unit	Prion kinetics, toxicity and synthesis and its wider relevance
U132692719	Professor G Mallucci	MRC Toxicology Unit	In vivo models of disease and toxicity in the nervous system

EU Grants and Loans

George Eustice: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on future arrangements for the administration of payments out of EU Structural Funds. [22538]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 9 November 2010]:* To date I have not had any direct discussions with my EU counterparts on future arrangements for the administration of payments out of EU structural funds. In England, the Department for Work and Pensions has operational responsibility for the European social fund and the Department for Communities and Local Government has operational responsibility for the European regional development fund.

Higher Education: Admissions

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* applicants and *(b)* successful applicants from each socio-economic group there were for places on undergraduate degree courses to study (i) medicine, (ii) accounting, (iii) law, (iv) veterinary medicine, (v) engineering and (vi) dentistry at universities in England in each year since 2001. [22143]

Mr Willetts: The latest information, which has been provided by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS), is given in the table. The National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SEC) was introduced in 2002. UCAS have not released NS-SEC data for 2009 entry. Final figures for 2010 entry will be available in January 2011.

UK domiciled applicants and accepted applicants to institutions in England by subject and National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification (NS-SEC), years of entry 2002 to 2008

		2002		*2003*		*2004*		*2005*	
Subject	*NS-SEC*	*Applicants*	*Accepted applicants*	*Applicants*	*Accepted applicants*	*Applicants*	*Accepted applicants*	*Applicants*	*Accepted applicants*
A1—Pre-clinical medicine	1. Higher managerial and professional occupations	3,486	2,093	4,107	2,198	4,710	2,266	4,788	2,067
	2. Lower managerial and professional occupations	2,347	1,219	3,057	1,403	3,647	1,471	3,769	1,353
	3. Intermediate occupations	924	513	1,123	534	1,388	554	1,432	533
	4. Small employers and own account workers	374	166	447	220	552	205	569	211
	5. Lower supervisory and technical occupations	160	79	246	102	316	108	267	89
	6. Semi-routine occupations	619	269	727	303	1,049	386	1,192	363
	7. Routine occupations	225	97	260	107	301	86	295	84
	Unknown	1,302	561	2,091	747	2,414	679	3,547	996
A2—Pre-clinical dentistry	1. Higher managerial and professional occupations	467	215	485	205	544	215	646	251
	2. Lower managerial and professional occupations	395	177	432	167	483	173	525	192
	3. Intermediate occupations	170	59	183	69	196	69	261	99

UK domiciled applicants and accepted applicants to institutions in England by subject and National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification (NS-SEC), years of entry 2002 to 2008

		2002		2003		2004		2005	
Subject	*NS-SEC*	*Applicants*	*Accepted applicants*	*Applicants*	*Accepted applicants*	*Applicants*	*Accepted applicants*	*Applicants*	*Accepted applicants*
	4. Small employers and own account workers	104	35	124	39	137	35	138	48
	5. Lower supervisory and technical occupations	51	18	55	20	59	14	65	16
	6. Semi-routine occupations	123	56	150	54	186	51	222	72
	7. Routine occupations	54	20	39	7	71	24	68	12
	Unknown	209	60	274	79	337	73	572	147
D1—Pre-clinical veterinary medicine	1. Higher managerial and professional occupations	520	203	506	205	423	219	343	193
	2. Lower managerial and professional occupations	430	149	410	159	375	162	322	155
	3. Intermediate occupations	179	42	159	55	160	73	119	60
	4. Small employers and own account workers	114	30	103	41	94	37	94	41
	5. Lower supervisory and technical occupations	68	19	60	20	59	29	59	22
	6. Semi-routine occupations	102	17	111	27	95	33	99	38
	7. Routine occupations	39	6	42	9	38	8	37	13
	Unknown	113	42	152	41	135	53	243	113
H—Engineering	1. Higher managerial and professional occupations	5,950	2,576	5,603	2,408	5,492	2,460	5,251	2,352
	2. Lower managerial and professional occupations	7,327	3,011	6,749	2,738	6,411	2,648	6,255	2,701
	3. Intermediate occupations	3,685	1,534	3,092	1,269	3,147	1,342	3,018	1,281
	4. Small employers and own account workers	1,890	722	1,775	664	1,667	630	1,638	669
	5. Lower supervisory and technical occupations	1,502	655	1,613	685	1,456	592	1,361	585
	6. Semi-routine occupations	3,739	1,462	3,396	1,405	3,089	1,272	3,244	1,336
	7. Routine occupations	1,505	613	1,354	486	1,284	491	1,279	500
	Unknown	4,915	2,612	5,117	2,736	4,690	2,574	6,184	3,180
M—Law	1. Higher managerial and professional occupations	4,480	2,416	4,848	2,563	4,850	2,463	4,084	2,183
	2. Lower managerial and professional occupations	6,029	3,072	6,950	3,393	7,195	3,386	6,509	3,171
	3. Intermediate occupations	2,972	1,504	3,255	1,631	3,520	1,699	3,294	1,583
	4. Small employers and own account workers	1,478	701	1,671	765	1,773	831	1,668	761

UK domiciled applicants and accepted applicants to institutions in England by subject and National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification (NS-SEC), years of entry 2002 to 2008

		2002		2003		2004		2005	
Subject	*NS-SEC*	*Applicants*	*Accepted applicants*	*Applicants*	*Accepted applicants*	*Applicants*	*Accepted applicants*	*Applicants*	*Accepted applicants*
	5. Lower supervisory and technical occupations	909	430	1,079	489	1,112	510	1,044	517
	6. Semi-routine occupations	2,428	1,184	2,888	1,292	2,943	1,387	3,146	1,456
	7. Routine occupations	1,226	533	1,385	626	1,528	691	1,544	670
	Unknown	3,656	2,185	4,448	2,526	4,831	2,699	6,580	3,648
N4—Accounting	1. Higher managerial and professional occupations	1,052	454	938	401	1,043	446	945	399
	2. Lower managerial and professional occupations	1,521	674	1,461	684	1,639	678	1,574	720
	3. Intermediate occupations	903	451	912	420	931	420	884	412
	4. Small employers and own account workers	479	193	471	212	549	242	560	246
	5. Lower supervisory and technical occupations	305	144	315	141	333	150	335	148
	6. Semi-routine occupations	838	378	873	449	924	407	997	462
	7. Routine occupations	436	196	440	200	492	228	504	232
	Unknown	1,199	755	1,375	871	1,645	894	2,028	1,164
Total		72,999	34,600	77,351	35,865	80,312	36,163	83,598	37,544

		2006		2007		2008	
Subject	*NS-SEC*	*Applicants*	*Accepted applicants*	*Applicants*	*Accepted applicants*	*Applicants*	*Accepted applicants*
A1—Pre-clinical medicine	1. Higher managerial and professional occupations	4,754	2,215	4,506	2,141	4,492	2,110
	2. Lower managerial and professional occupations	3,446	1,272	3,387	1,270	3,445	1,300
	3. Intermediate occupations	1,446	546	1,386	510	1,484	570
	4. Small employers and own account workers	523	191	560	200	537	184
	5. Lower supervisory and technical occupations	263	94	289	100	284	110
	6. Semi-routine occupations	1,151	355	1,296	361	1,435	500
	7. Routine occupations	322	93	299	89	372	114
	Unknown	3,592	1,000	3,397	930	2,609	784
A2—Pre-clinical dentistry	1. Higher managerial and professional occupations	646	247	701	283	731	288
	2. Lower managerial and professional occupations	524	167	545	162	565	168
	3. Intermediate occupations	246	84	259	102	288	103
	4. Small employers and own account workers	140	42	169	57	153	40
	5. Lower supervisory and technical occupations	71	24	73	17	54	18

		2006		*2007*		*2008*	
Subject	*NS-SEC*	*Applicants*	*Accepted applicants*	*Applicants*	*Accepted applicants*	*Applicants*	*Accepted applicants*
	6. Semi-routine occupations	240	73	287	71	285	86
	7. Routine occupations	88	22	89	22	76	20
	Unknown	566	147	582	157	488	129
D1 Pre-clinical veterinary medicine	1. Higher managerial and professional occupations	331	212	403	224	475	201
	2. Lower managerial and professional occupations	288	151	383	175	422	136
	3. Intermediate occupations	129	71	168	70	207	82
	4. Small employers and own account workers	113	57	107	42	144	50
	5. Lower supervisory and technical occupations	40	17	53	18	55	17
	6. Semi-routine occupations	82	37	141	53	157	60
	7. Routine occupations	40	13	57	16	68	26
	Unknown	245	108	310	117	249	71
H—Engineering	1. Higher managerial and professional occupations	4,784	2,175	5,145	2,306	4,858	2,397
	2. Lower managerial and professional occupations	5,983	2,443	6,052	2,563	5,798	2,663
	3. Intermediate occupations	2,720	1,145	2,801	1,197	2,735	1,273
	4. Small employers and own account workers	1,573	634	1,576	617	1,519	690
	5. Lower supervisory and technical occupations	1,208	510	1,291	513	1,268	589
	6. Semi-routine occupations	2,703	1,121	2,988	1,222	3,073	1,408
	7. Routine occupations	1,070	428	1,261	500	1,193	525
	Unknown	5,719	3,043	5,657	3,029	5,617	3,335
M—Law	1. Higher managerial and professional occupations	3,931	2,124	3,987	2,234	3,825	2,289
	2. Lower managerial and professional occupations	5,824	2,949	6,096	3,117	5,821	3,261
	3. Intermediate occupations	2,816	1,387	2,932	1,470	3,051	1,663
	4. Small employers and own account workers	1,765	851	1,841	916	1,673	929
	5. Lower supervisory and technical occupations	971	457	961	473	868	450
	6. Semi-routine occupations	2,889	1,362	2,906	1,416	3,273	1,751
	7. Routine occupations	1,355	635	1,467	690	1,520	808
	Unknown	6,034	3,540	6,052	3,767	5,980	4,146
N4—Accounting	1. Higher managerial and professional occupations	945	390	1,030	408	1,012	373
	2. Lower managerial and professional occupations	1,520	645	1,647	645	1,655	685
	3. Intermediate occupations	844	366	905	386	951	401

		2006		*2007*		*2008*	
Subject	*NS-SEC*	*Applicants*	*Accepted applicants*	*Applicants*	*Accepted applicants*	*Applicants*	*Accepted applicants*
	4. Small employers and own account workers	626	251	591	237	647	248
	5. Lower supervisory and technical occupations	296	131	324	128	309	119
	6. Semi-routine occupations	992	458	1,106	471	1,159	507
	7. Routine occupations	490	227	538	22[illegible]	550	222
	Unknown	2,001	1,147	2,119	1,210	2,075	1,277
Total		78,345	35,657	80,720	36,927	79,505	39,176

Notes:
1. "Applicants" covers applicants who have made one or more applications to the specified subject.
2. Applicants applying to medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine courses can submit up to four applications. Those applying to other subjects in 2008 could submit up to five applications; in 2007 and earlier years they could submit up to six applications.
3. UCAS uses the Standard Occupational Classification 2000 and assigns socio-economic status based on an applicant's parental occupation (or the occupation of the person contributing the highest income to the household if the applicant is aged 21 years or over), and uses a simplified version of the National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SEC) since UCAS does not collect employment status or size of organisation from applicants. Provision of this information is voluntary and it is not passed to institutions until after the selection process. Socio-economic status data are available only for home (UK-domiciled) applicants. UCAS is not releasing NS-SEC data for 2009.

Source:
UCAS.

Higher Education: Student Numbers

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of students who had been educated in *(a)* Wansbeck constituency, *(b)* Northumberland and *(c)* the UK who were at university in the last 12 months. [22926]

Mr Willetts: Figures for higher education enrolments who were educated in Wansbeck constituency, Northumberland county and the UK are not available. As an alternative, figures for enrolments to higher education institutions who were resident in Wansbeck constituency, Northumberland local authority and the UK have been provided in the table as an alternative.

The latest available information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) relates to the 2008/09 academic year. Figures for the 2009/10 academic year will be available in January 2011. The Department has recently received updated postcode information; therefore figures in the answer may not match those previously published. Figures exclude students studying higher education level courses at further education colleges.

Undergraduate enrolments[1] from Wansbeck parliamentary constituency[2], Northumberland local authority[2], and the UK—UK higher education institutions academic year 2008/09

Area	*Undergraduate enrolments*
Wansbeck	2,075
Northumberland	8,570
UK	1,673,655

[1] Enrolments cover students in all years of study, not just first year students.
[2] Excludes enrolments whose parliamentary constituency or local authority could not be established due to missing or invalid postcode information.

Note:
Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Innovation

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what powers and responsibilities the Technology Strategy Board will have in relation to his proposed innovation centres. [23242]

Mr Willetts: The overall network of centres will be established and overseen by the Technology Strategy Board but individual centres will have a high degree of autonomy so they can respond to business needs.

The Technology Strategy Board will work with industry, stakeholders, and the wider Government to identify the priority areas and governance structure for the elite network of Technology and Innovation Centres by April 2011.

National Apprenticeship Service

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills who the *(a)* Chief Executive and *(b)* Chairman of the National Apprenticeship Service is; how long each has been in post; how much each is paid, including any pension contributions from the employer; and in which publications and on which websites each post was advertised when it was last vacant. [22734]

Mr Hayes: Simon Waugh was appointed to the role of chief executive of the newly formed National Apprenticeship Service in January 2009. The role was advertised in the *Sunday Times* and on the *Times Online*, and by the recruitment consultants, Gatenby Sanderson. The role was created in 2009 and Simon has been the only person to hold this position. In the summer of 2010, my Department agreed to Simon becoming executive chairman. Prior to this, the role of chairman of the National Apprenticeship Service did not exist.

The National Apprenticeship Service is embedded in the Skills Funding Agency which was created on 1 April 2010. Salary information for all Skills Funding Agency and National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) senior civil servants, including Simon Waugh's are available on the Skills Funding Agency website

http://skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk/aboutus/transparencyingovernment/salary/index.htm

National Scholarship Fund

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how he expects the National Scholarship Fund to operate; and who he expects to be eligible for awards from the Fund. [22675]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 8 November 2010]:* All universities that want to charge a higher graduate contribution than the £6,000 threshold will be obliged to participate in the National Scholarships programme. We will consult students and university organisations on the details. We will look to increase the leverage of Government funding by getting matched contributions from universities. Our current preference is for universities to offer scholarships to targeted students—including the principal beneficiaries of the pupil premium—that would mean at least their first year is free. Other attractive ideas include expanding the model of a foundation year for young people with high potential but lower qualifications.

Regional Growth Fund

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the Local Growth White Paper, Cm 7961, what timescale he has set for the establishment of growth hubs. [22650]

Mr Prisk: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills will set out its plans for business improvement, including growth hubs, in more detail shortly.

Science: Finance

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the sum in private sector funding likely to be attracted by each £1 in science funding from the public purse over the comprehensive spending review period. [23060]

Mr Willetts: The Government does not have an explicit estimate of the amount of private sector funding attracted by £1 of public spending on science—with the significant degrees of uncertainty involved, such an estimate is likely to be unreliable.

In 2008 (the most recent year for which data is available) Government expenditure on research and development and higher education expenditure on research and development, together known as public sector expenditure on research and development, was equal to 0.162+0.469 or 0.631% of gross domestic product. Business expenditure on research and development, which includes financing from abroad, 1.097% of gross domestic product. Therefore for every £1 of public research and development expenditure in 2008 there was £1.74 of business research and development expenditure.

Skills Funding Agency: Manpower

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many staff are employed by the Skills Funding Agency specifically to work on communications and campaigns; and what recent discussions he has had with the Chief Executive of the Agency on this level of staffing. [22733]

Mr Hayes: Decisions about the number of staff within the Skills Funding Agency who work on communications and campaigns are an operational matter for Geoff Russell, the chief executive of the agency. I have therefore asked him to reply direct to my hon. Friend.

I have not had any recent discussions with the chief executive of Skills Funding on the number of Skills Funding Agency staff working in these areas. However, as is the case with all public bodies, the Skills Funding Agency is being streamlined. It is already making an 11% additional saving in 2010-11 and will be expected to make further significant savings to its administrative costs over the spending review period.

Students: Fees and Charges

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills who he plans to consult on options for mechanisms to enable early repayment of tuition fee loans; and if he will make a statement. [22676]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 8 November 2010]:* The Government are committed to the progressive nature of the repayment system. It is therefore important that those on the highest incomes post graduation are not able unfairly to buy themselves out of this progressive system by paying off their loans early. We will consult on potential early repayment mechanisms—similar to those paid by people who pre-pay their mortgages. These mechanisms would need to ensure that graduates on modest incomes who strive to pay off their loans early through regular payments are not penalised. For example, a 5% levy might be charged on additional repayments each year over a specified amount such as £1,000 or £3,000. Alternatively, those on higher incomes (eg over £60,000) who made an additional repayment could be required to pay a 5% levy on this sum. We will consult with students, universities, higher education bodies and other experts.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Royal Air Force personnel are deployed in Afghanistan in support of combat aircraft flying operations. [21839]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 4 November 2010]:* The RAF currently has approximately 1,900 personnel deployed in Afghanistan. The specific number of RAF personnel supporting Tornado GR4 in Afghanistan is being withheld as the information could prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Afghanistan: Security Forces

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 22 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 881W, on Afghanistan: security forces, if he will discuss with his Afghan counterpart the recruitment and desertion statistics for the Afghan police and army referred to in his Answer. [20589]

Dr Fox: I regularly talk to Defence Minister Wardak on a range of issues including the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF).

Working closely with the Government of Afghanistan, we continue to make progress in enhancing the capacity and capability of the ANSF, including on specific measures to improve recruitment and retention. However, these issues are ultimately matters for the Government of Afghanistan.

Air Force: Military Bases

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which *(a)* live fire and *(b)* practice weapons are permitted for use at (i) RAF Wainfleet, (ii) RAF Donna Nook, (iii) RAF Holbeach, (iv) RAF West Freugh, (v) RAF Tain and (vi) the Cape Wrath Range. [22950]

Mr Robathan: RAF Wainfleet was closed on 3 December 2009. Details of the live fire and practice weapons permitted for use at Defence Training Estate (DTE) Donna Nook, DTE Holbeach, MOD West Freugh, DTE Tain and DTE Cape Wrath are detailed as follows:

DTE Donna Nook

Live Fire:

Ball/Tracer up to 30mm (including 7.62mm, 0.5 inch, 20mm, 27mm, 30mm)

Practice Weapons:

3kg

14kg

540lb High Explosive Simulated (Freefall and Retarded)

1000lb High Explosive Simulated (Freefall and Retarded)

CRV-7 Inert (Ground Attack Rocket)

BDU-33(Practice Bomb)

BDU-50 (Freefall and Retarded) (Practice Bomb)

BDU-56 (Freefall) (Practice Bomb)

DTE Holbeach

Live Fire:

Ball/Tracer up to 30mm (including 7.62mm, 0.5 inch, 20mm, 27mm, 30mm) TOW (Tube-launched Optically Tracked Wire command data link guided missile)

Practice Weapons:

3kg

14kg

540lb High Explosive Simulated (Freefall and Retarded)

1000lb High Explosive Simulated (Freefall and Retarded)

CRV-7 Inert (Ground Attack Rocket)

BDU-33 (Practice Bomb)

BDU-50 (Freefall and Retarded) (Practice Bomb)

BDU-56 (Freefall) (Practice Bomb)

MOD West Freugh

This unit is operated and managed by QinetiQ on behalf of the MOD and is cleared for use of the following air-launched weapons:

Live Fire:

Ball/Tracer up to 30mm (including 7.62mm, 0.5 inch, 20mm, 27mm, 30mm)

540lb HE (Freefall and Retarded)

1000lb HE (Freefall and Retarded)

Practice Weapons:

UK and US Practice bombs

540lb HE Simulated (Freefall and Retarded)

1000lb HE Simulated (Freefall and Retarded)

Paveway II, III and IV inert laser guided bombs

DTE Tain

Live Fire:

Ball/Tracer up to 30mm (including 7.62mm, 0.5 inch, 20mm, 27mm, 30mm)

Practice Weapons:

3kg

14kg

540lb High Explosive Simulated (Freefall and Retarded)

1000lb High Explosive Simulated (Freefall and Retarded)

CRV-7 Inert (Ground Attack Rocket)

BDU-33(Practice Bomb)

BDU-50 (Freefall and Retarded) (Practice Bomb)

BDU-56 (Freefall) (Practice Bomb)

DTE Cape Wrath

Live Fire:

Ball/Tracer up to 105mm (including 7.62mm, 0.5 inch, 20mm, 27mm, 30mm, 40mm, 105 mm)

1000lb High Explosive (Freefall and Retarded)

Mk-82 High Explosive (Freefall and Retarded)

Practice Weapons:

3kg

14kg

1000lb High Explosive Simulated (Freefall and Retarded)

Inert Paveway II

CRV-7 Inert (Ground Attack Rocket)

1000lb High Explosive Simulated (Freefall and Retarded)

BDU-33(Practice Bomb)

BDU-50 (Freefall and Retarded) (Practice Bomb)

BDU-56 (Freefall) (Practice Bomb)

Mk-82 High Explosive Simulated (Freefall and Retarded)

Mk-84 High Explosive Simulated (Freefall)

Aircraft Carriers: Military Aircraft

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effects on the aeronautical industry of not proceeding with his Department's proposals for the short take-off and vertical landing aircraft variant for the new aircraft carriers. [21333]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 2 November 2010]:* The decision to purchase the Carrier Variant of the Joint Strike Fighter was made on operational grounds. It offers advantages in terms of interoperability with allies, range, and pay load and through life costs over the Short Take Off and Vertical Landing (STOVL) variant.

The industrial implications of the key strategic defence and security review choices were given careful consideration, but we have not made a specific assessment of the impact on the aeronautical industry of the decision to proceed with the Carrier Variant of the Joint Strike

Fighter, rather than the STOVL version. However, UK companies have a significant interest in the overall Joint Strike Fighter programme, including the carrier and Conventional Take-Off and Landing (CTOL) variants.

Armed Forces: Housing

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether service family accommodation in North Kingston is included in his Department's upgrade programme. [22879]

Mr Robathan: Work is under way to provide new kitchens, bathrooms, heating systems and electrical rewiring to 50 service family accommodation (SFA) properties in North Kingston.

The coalition Government are looking to see what further improvements to the SFA estate as a whole, including properties in Kingston, can be funded from efficiencies elsewhere in the Department.

Armed Forces: Private Education

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many children of service personnel receive funding from his Department to attend independent schools. [22765]

Mr Robathan: For financial year 2009-10, there were 9,020 children of service personnel who attended fee paying schools and received financial assistance from the Ministry of Defence through the Continuity of Educational Allowance (CEA) scheme. It is not possible to differentiate independent schools so this figure includes all CEA eligible schools: private sector, public and state boarding schools.

Falkland Islands: Deployment

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what naval capability he expects to be available for operations relating to the Falkland Islands in the next 10 years. [23001]

Nick Harvey: We are firmly committed to the defence of the Falkland Islands and will maintain a permanent maritime presence in the South Atlantic consisting of a destroyer or frigate and a patrol vessel. Other naval vessels may visit from time to time and a ship will also deploy to Antarctic waters for the ice patrol task each austral summer. The permanent maritime presence can be reinforced rapidly by other Royal Navy ships and submarines, should the need arise.

France: Military Alliances

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the compliance of the defence sharing agreement with France with the UK's obligations under the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. [22839]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 9 November 2010]:* At the 2 November 2010 UK-France summit, we signed two treaties, one on long-term defence and security co-operation and one on shared nuclear hydrodynamics testing facilities. Both are fully consistent with our obligations under the treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

HMS Astute

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many civilians were aboard HMS Astute when it ran aground on 22 October 2010; and what the role of each was. [20760]

Peter Luff: There were 17 civilians aboard HMS Astute at the time of the grounding incident. Of these, 16 were contractors: 11 from BAE Systems Submarine Solutions; two from Atlas, two from Thales; and one from QinetiQ. In addition, there was one civilian on board from the Ministry of Defence.

These civilians were present to support ongoing weapons and combat systems trials and training.

Joint Strike Fighter F-35 Fighters

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Joint Strike Fighter F-35 fighters he plans to order; and what timescale he has set for their entry into service. [20416]

Peter Luff: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 3 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 852-53W, to the hon. Members for Glenrothes (Lindsay Roy), for North Durham (Mr Jones) and for Moray (Angus Robertson).

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the short study on the helicopter platform capabilities for HMS Ocean and HMS Illustrious to report; and when he expects to make a decision on the future of such capabilities. [19985]

Peter Luff: The study is expected to report its conclusions shortly. A decision on how our future landing platform helicopter capability should be provided will be announced in due course.

Nimrod MR4A

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence where the Nimrod MR4A aircraft designated PA04 is stationed. [20761]

Peter Luff: Nimrod MRA4 aircraft PA04 is stationed at BAE Systems Warton.

Peacekeeping Operations: Middle East

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent estimate is of the number of civilian deaths in Afghanistan consequent on actions by *(a)* Coalition forces and *(b)* insurgents since October 2001. [20591]

Dr Fox: We deeply regret all civilian casualties. Protecting the Afghan civilian population is a cornerstone of the international security assistance force's (ISAF) mission, and all British troops undergo comprehensive training on the strict rules of engagement. Where incidents do occur procedures are in place to ensure they are promptly reported to the chain of command and follow up actions take place in accordance with ISAF and UK national procedures. This contrasts directly with the attitude of the insurgents, whose indiscriminate use of suicide bombs, roadside explosive devices and human shields cause the majority of civilian deaths and injuries in Afghanistan. We will continue our efforts to prevent insurgents harming civilians and to develop the capacity of Afghan security forces to protect the population.

The Ministry of Defence does not record figures for insurgent or civilian casualties in Afghanistan because of the immense difficulty and risks that would be involved in collecting robust data.

Shipbuilding

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of shipyards in the UK which are surplus to requirements. [22488]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 9 November 2010]:* As set out in the strategic defence and security review, the Ministry of Defence has a continuing large programme of investment in new warships. The Department is committed to working with the UK shipbuilding industry to ensure delivery of our future military requirements. It will, however, be for industry to retain the capacity it deems necessary in order to meet the demands made of it.

Strategic Defence and Security Review

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what estimate he has made of the saving to the public purse from his planned reduction in the number of *(a)* operational and *(b)* stockpiled warheads; [19986]

(2) what estimate he has made of the saving to the public purse arising from reductions in the number of warheads on Vanguard submarines. [19987]

Dr Fox: The Ministry of Defence made estimates of the cost savings accrued from measures in the strategic defence and security review for the purposes of formulating policy. However, final savings figures will depend on detailed implementation. The MOD is therefore not prepared to release more detailed figures at this time.

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what meetings each Minister in his Department had with representatives of the defence industry to discuss the strategic defence and security review prior to its publication. [21334]

Dr Fox: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 26 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 202W, to the hon. Member for Stalybridge and Hyde (Jonathan Reynolds).

JUSTICE

Alternatives to Prison

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department is taking to increase the use of community sentences for prisoners on short prison sentences. [22648]

Mr Blunt: We want to see sentencing that is effective in rehabilitating offenders so that they do not offend again. This includes increased use of community sentences where they are more effective than short prison sentences in providing punishment and rehabilitation, and in helping offenders come off drugs.

We have announced that we are conducting an assessment of sentencing, looking at the full range of penalties and restorative measures available in the criminal justice system, including community sentences. We will publish a Green Paper before the end of the year, setting out plans to reform sentencing and rehabilitate offenders more effectively.

Criminal Injuries Compensation

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether any internal reviews of criminal injuries compensation have recommended changes to the categories of person eligible for compensation through the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme. [23101]

Mr Blunt: The Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme is currently subject to review. No decisions have been made.

Data Protection: Internet

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had with the Office of the Information Commissioner on the adequacy of the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998 to protect personal data online. [22703]

Mr Djanogly: There are regular discussions between the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) on the provisions of the Data Protection Act (DPA) and their adequacy for both online and offline data processing. As part of this ongoing dialogue, the ICO responded to the MoJ's Call for Evidence on the DPA and the European Data Protection Directive. In addition, discussions took place between the MoJ and the ICO about the ICO's Personal Information Online Code of Practice during for the ICO's public consultation.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Dr Phillip Lee: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what mechanisms are in place to ensure that his Department's decisions on regional funding allocations are based on the most recent available population data. [20696]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice does not contribute to any single regional pot of funding. Funding allocations to local authority Youth Offending Teams are based on a formula which includes population data. Following the spending review, we are reviewing the YOT grant formula in order to bring it up to date and will work with the Department for Communities and Local Government to ensure that it includes the most recent available population data.

Fines: Surcharges

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was raised through the victims' surcharge in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [22740]

Mr Blunt: I refer the hon. Member to my reply given to the hon. Member for Blackley and Broughton (Graham Stringer) on 24 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 280W.

The Victim Surcharge was introduced on the 1 April 2007. Between 2007-08 to 2009-10 the Victim Surcharge raised £21,079,310. It produced approximately £3.8 million in 2007-08, £8.1 million in 2008-09 and £9.2 million for 2009-10.

Google

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has discussed Google's Street View project with the Information Commissioner. [22704]

Mr Djanogly: UK data protection legislation is enforced independently of Government by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and it would not be appropriate for Ministers to be involved in the ICO's handling of any particular case.

Discussions between the Information Commissioner and Ministers with regard to Google's Street View project have related to the general principles of the case.

John Hirst

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if the Probation Service will *(a)* consider the compliance of John Hirst with the terms of his licence for release from custody and *(b)* recall him from his release on licence. [22623]

Mr Blunt: It would not be appropriate, for operational reasons, to place in the public domain information regarding the management on licence of an individual offender.

However, an offender who is in the community and on a life licence is liable to be recalled to prison, where his behaviour suggests he presents an unacceptable risk to life or limb.

Prison Sentences

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people who were given custodial sentences of up to two years were convicted of each offence in the latest year for which figures are available; [22773]

(2) how many people who were given custodial sentences of up to 12 months were convicted of each offence in the latest year for which figures are available. [22774]

Mr Blunt: Information showing the number of persons sentenced to immediate custody of up to and including one year, over one year and up to and including two years, and over two years (including life and indeterminate) for each offence at all courts in England and Wales for 2009 (latest available) can be found in the following table.

Persons sentenced to immediate custody, sentence bands at all courts by offence, England and Wales, 2009[1, 2]

Offence	*Total immediate custody*	*Up to and including one year*	*Over one year and up to and including two years*	*Over two years (including life and indeterminate)*
Murder	376	—	—	376
Attempted Murder	84	—	—	84
Threat or Conspiracy to Murder	182	81	50	51
Manslaughter	202	4	17	181
Causing Death by Reckless Driving	218	22	51	145
Manslaughter Due to Diminished Responsibility	4	—	—	4
Causing Death by Careless Driving when under the influence of Drink or Drugs	33	3	1	29
Causing Death of a child or vulnerable person	11	3	2	6
Causing Death by careless or inconsiderate driving	3	2	1	—
Causing death by driving unlicensed, disqualified or uninsured drivers	1	1	—	—
Causing Death by Aggravated Vehicle Taking	7	3	—	4
Wounding or other act Endangering Life	1,626	49	131	1,446
Endangering Railway Passenger	4	3	1	—
Endangering Life at Sea	1	1	—	—
Other Wounding etc.	11,155	7,764	2,524	867
Cruelty to or Neglect of Children	158	86	38	34
Abandoning Child aged under Two Years	1	1	—	—
Child Abduction	16	5	6	5
Procuring Illegal Abortion	2	—	—	2
Total Violence Against the Person	14,084	8,028	2,822	3,234

Persons sentenced to immediate custody, sentence bands at all courts by offence, England and Wales, 2009[1,2]

Offence	*Total immediate custody*	*Up to and including one year*	*Over one year and up to and including two years*	*Over two years (including life and indeterminate)*
Buggery	24	0	1	23
Sexual Assault on a Male	118	25	34	59
Rape of a Female	885	5	13	867
Rape of a Male	56	0	5	51
Sexual Assault on a Female	935	261	225	449
Sexual Activity with child under 13	86	19	22	45
Sexual Activity with child under 16	472	66	138	268
Familial Sexual Offences (Incest)	77	9	23	45
Exploitation of Prostitution	47	22	17	8
Abduction	1	—	1	—
Sexual activity etc. with a person with a mental disorder	15	1	6	8
Abuse of children through prostitution and pornography	19	3	4	12
Trafficking for sexual exploitation	21	—	2	19
Abuse of trust—sexual offences	19	15	4	—
Gross Indecency with Children	43	9	18	16
Miscellaneous sexual offences	169	118	26	25
Total Sexual Offences	2,987	553	539	1,895
Burglary in a Dwelling	6,873	2,636	1,887	2,350
Aggravated Burglary in a Dwelling	246	11	33	202
Burglary in a Building Other than a Dwelling	2,887	2,356	337	194
Aggravated Burglary in a Building not a Dwelling	20	1	2	17
Total Burglary Offences	10,026	5,004	2,259	2,763
Robbery	5,155	1,007	1,313	2,835
Total Robbery Offences	5,155	1,007	1,313	2,835
Aggravated Vehicle Taking	620	472	148	—
Money laundering offences	488	222	139	127
Theft from the Person of Another	1,959	1,625	226	108
Theft in Dwelling not Automatic Machine or Meter	332	310	10	12
Theft by an Employee	328	209	93	26
Theft or Unauthorised Taking from Mail	41	34	5	2
Abstracting Electricity	21	21	—	—
Theft of Pedal Cycle	138	136	1	1
Theft from Vehicle	1,029	996	22	11
Theft from Shops	11,903	11,850	47	6
Theft from Automatic Machine or Meter	110	81	15	14
Theft of Motor Vehicle	236	206	24	6
Other Theft or Unauthorised Taking	1,382	1,284	73	25
Handling Stolen Goods	1,355	1,156	153	46
Total Theft and Handling Stolen Goods	19,942	18,602	956	384
Fraud by Company Director etc.	23	5	8	10
False Accounting	55	26	19	10
Other Fraud	2,700	1,984	448	268
Bankruptcy Offence	24	22	2	—
Forgery etc. of Drug Prescription	10	8	1	1
Other Forgery etc.	2,558	2,323	193	42
Fraud, Forgery etc associated with Vehicle or Driver Records	17	16	1	
Total Fraud and Forgery	5,387	4,384	672	331
Arson	549	115	128	306
Criminal Damage Endangering Life	40	12	10	18
Other Criminal Damage	354	330	22	2
Threat etc., to commit Criminal Damage	93	75	9	9

Persons sentenced to immediate custody, sentence bands at all courts by offence, England and Wales, 2009[1, 2]

Offence	*Total immediate custody*	*Up to and including one year*	*Over one year and up to and including two years*	*Over two years (including life and indeterminate)*
Total Criminal Damage	1,036	532	169	335
Unlawful importation—Class A	528	4	19	505
Unlawful importation—Class B	74	21	22	31
Unlawful importation—Class C	82	18	31	33
Unlawful importation—Class unspecified	25	9	5	11
Unlawful exportation—Class A	25	1	—	24
Unlawful exportation—Class B	4	1	1	2
Unlawful exportation—Class C	4	2	—	2
Unlawful exportation—Class unspecified	4	1	2	1
Production, supply and possession with intent to supply a controlled drug—Class A	4,826	368	1,314	3,144
Production, supply and possession with intent to supply a controlled drug—Class B	1,077	381	510	186
Production, supply and possession with intent to supply a controlled drug—Class C	967	434	335	198
Production, supply and possession with intent to supply a controlled drug—Class unspecified	223	25	43	155
Possession of a controlled drug—Class A	775	704	34	37
Possession of a controlled drug—Class B	371	364	3	4
Possession of a controlled drug—Class C	127	121	6	—
Possession of a controlled drug—Class unspecified	13	4	1	8
Inciting another to supply a controlled drug—Class C	2	2	—	—
Other drug offences	298	80	150	68
Total Drug Offences	9,425	2,540	2,476	4,409
Going Equipped for Stealing, etc.	374	354	18	2
Blackmail	132	16	33	83
Kidnapping, etc.	310	39	70	201
Rioting	9	0	—	9
Violent Disorder	268	101	133	34
Other Offence against the State or Public Order	3,064	2,494	509	61
Perjury	40	35	4	1
Betting, Gaming and Lotteries	3	3	—	—
Aiding Suicide	2	—	2	—
Assist Entry of Illegal Immigrant	381	281	66	34
Perverting the Course of Justice	748	623	94	31
Absconding from Lawful Custody	246	236	8	2
Firearms Act Offence	597	181	62	354
Revenue Law Offence	17	4	6	7
Failing to Surrender to Bail	1,722	1,722	—	—
Trade Descriptions Act and Similar Offences	236	213	16	7
Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974	7	7	—	—
Possession of Obscene Material etc.	479	293	130	56
Protection from Eviction Act 1977.	4	4	—	—
Adulteration of Food	3	1	2	—
Public Health	11	10	1	—
Disclosure, obstruction, false or misleading statements	37	36	1	—
Other (Excluding Motoring Offences)	2,192	2,023	77	92
Total Other Indictable Offences (Excluding Motoring)	10,882	8,676	1,232	974
Total Indictable Offences (Excluding Motoring)	78,924	49,326	12,438	17,160
Dangerous Driving	1,309	1,089	220	—
Driving licence related offences: Making false statements	2	2	—	—
Vehicle insurance offences: Making false statements	4	4	—	—
Total Indictable Motoring Offences	1,315	1,095	220	—

Persons sentenced to immediate custody, sentence bands at all courts by offence, England and Wales, 2009[1, 2]

Offence	*Total immediate custody*	*Up to and including one year*	*Over one year and up to and including two years*	*Over two years (including life and indeterminate)*
Total Indictable Offences (Including Motoring)	80,239	50,421	12,658	17,160
Assault: On Constable	1,609	1,609	—	—
Assault: Common, etc	6,787	6,785	2	—
Betting or Gaming Offence	32	32	—	—
Brothel Keeping	13	13	—	—
Cruelty to Animal	102	102	—	—
Offences Relating to Dogs	10	10	—	—
Education Acts	15	15	—	—
Firearms Acts	17	17	—	—
Fishery Acts	3	3	—	—
Offence against Public Order	1,522	1,522	—	—
Interference with Motor Vehicles	281	281	—	—
Unauthorised Taking of a Conveyance	639	639	—	—
Summary Aggravated Vehicle Taking	371	368	3	—
Drunkenness, with Aggravation	7	7	—	—
Summary Criminal or Malicious Damage Offence	1,313	1,313	—	—
Social Security Offence	36	36	—	—
Naval, Military and Air Force Law—Navy	1	1	—	—
Disorderly Behaviour	5	5	—	—
Other Offence	2	2	—	—
Prostitution—Kerb Crawling	52	52	—	—
Public Health Offence	1	1	—	—
Railway Offence	23	23	—	—
Sexual Offences—Miscellaneous	1	1	—	—
Vagrancy Offences—Begging	8	8	—	—
Vagrancy Offences—Found In Enclosed Premises	52	52	—	—
Weights and Measures Acts	1	1	—	—
Wild Birds Protection Acts	1	1	—	—
Drug Offence	111	111	—	—
Immigration Offence	33	33	—	—
Other Summary Offence (Excluding Motoring)	1,639	1,638	1	—
Total Summary Offences (Excluding Motoring)	14,687	14,681	6	—
Summary Motoring Offences	5,264	5,264	—	—
Total Summary Offences (Including Motoring)	19,951	19,945	6	—
Total All Offences	100,190	70,366	12,664	17,160

[1] The figures given in the table relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics—Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Prisoners on Remand

Paul Goggins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many remand prisoners *(a)* were in prison on 6 May 2010 and *(b)* voted in elections on that day. [22735]

Mr Blunt: On 7 May 2010, the nearest date for which information is available, there were 12,823 remand prisoners in prisons in England and Wales.

Eligible prisoners may vote by post or by proxy and we are therefore unable to say how many votes were actually cast by or on behalf of eligible prisoners.

The right to vote is restricted to unconvicted prisoners, convicted but unsentenced prisoners, persons imprisoned for contempt of court and other prisoners classified under Prison Rule 7(3), and those serving a term of imprisonment in default of payment of a sum of money, adjudged to be paid on conviction.

Prisoners' Release

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were given a supervision order with a condition of participation in a sex offender programme in 2009. [22934]

Mr Blunt: In 2009, 1,451 community-based orders were issued with a requirement to participate in a sex offender programme.

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people were given a supervision order with a curfew requirement in each year from 2004 to 2009; [22935]

(2) how many people were given a supervision order with a requirement for unpaid work in each year from 2004 to 2009. [22936]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the number of curfew and unpaid work community order requirements which commenced under probation service supervision in each year from 2005 to 2009—latest available.

Persons starting curfew and unpaid work requirements of a community order 2005-09

	Curfew	*Unpaid work*
2005	3,209	29,947
2006	9,615	66,937
2007	12,608	74,779
2008	15,526	74,629
2009	16,479	76,699

Notes:

1. Sharp increase from 2005 reflects the fact that these orders were introduced for offences committed after 4 April 2005.
2. For curfews, the data given in the table are the majority of adult curfew requirements given. The data do not include single requirement curfews which do not involve probation service supervision.

Data are available from April 2005 only as the community order was introduced under the Criminal Justice Act 2003 on 4 April 2005—moreover curfew/unpaid work requirements did not explicitly feature in the community sentences used previously.

The figures can be found in the published "Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2009"—Table 3.9, a copy of which can be found in the Libraries of both Houses and which can be found at the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/
prisonandprobation.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisons: Drugs

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department is taking to improve the delivery of drug treatment services in prisons. [22780]

Mr Blunt: The Government recognise that treatment is essential if we are to tackle the social and health costs caused by drugs. In prisons, a comprehensive framework of drug treatment is in place to address the drug needs of offenders, comprising clinical services, psychosocial interventions, case management and through care services. The Integrated Drug Treatment System (IDTS) is bringing improvements to the quality of prison treatment and is due to be rolled out to all adult prisons in England by March 2011.

However, we believe more needs to be done to offer offenders the opportunity to get off drugs for good and into a position where they can stop offending and make a proper contribution to society. To achieve this we will run pilots to pay contractors by results to rehabilitate offenders with drug problems, launch drugs recovery wing pathfinders in a number of prisons and explore alternative forms of residential, treatment-based accommodation for offenders with drugs problems.

These plans will be outlined in more detail in our Green Paper on Sentencing and Rehabilitation, which will be published for consultation shortly.

Prisons: Meat

Mr Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will review levels of meat consumption in prisons for the purpose of improving the health of prisoners. [23133]

Mr Blunt: There are no plans to review the level of meat consumption in prisons. Prisons already provide meals to meet religious and cultural needs as well as vegetarian, vegan and other dietary requirements.

Prisons: Wales

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Wales on proposals for the construction of a prison in North Wales. [22992]

Mr Blunt: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Wales has discussed the provision of prison places in north Wales with both myself and ministerial colleagues.

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) is committed to publishing a Green Paper on Rehabilitation and Sentencing, consulting on our longer-term plans for offender management. Following this the MoJ will re-evaluate its strategy for prison capacity.

Probation

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance his Department issues to the Probation Service on the recall of prisoners. [22649]

Mr Blunt: The most recent published guidance issued to the Probation Service on the recall of prisoners is contained in Probation Circular 14/2008 and Probation Instruction 4/2009.

The link for these circulars are:

http://www.probation.homeoffice.gov.uk/files/pdf/
PC14%202008.pdf

http://www.probation.homeoffice.gov.uk/files/pdf/
PI04%202009.pdf

Youth Custody: Violence

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he has had with the Youth Justice Boards on matters arising from the recent violent incidents at HM Prison and Youth Offender Institute, Warren Hill and HM Prison and Youth Offender Institute, Hatfield; and if he will make a statement. [22852]

Mr Blunt: I was kept informed of events at HMYOI Warren Hill through the National Offender Management Service. The Youth Justice Board are working closely with NOMS to manage the situation at Warren Hill and the impact on the wider youth estate.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 11 November 2010

SCOTLAND

Devolution: Scotland

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland on what occasions he has discussed the devolution of council tax rebate with *(a)* the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, *(b)* local authorities in Scotland, *(c)* the Scottish Executive and *(d)* the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions since his appointment. [23216]

Michael Moore: I am in regular contact with a range of stakeholders on matters concerning aspects of welfare reform. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Institute of Fiscal Studies

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on services provided by the Institute for Fiscal Studies in each of the last 10 years. [23396]

David Mundell: In the last 10 years the Scotland Office has spent £60 on services provided by the Institute for Fiscal Studies, all in 2010.

TRANSPORT

AA

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with *(a)* the AA, *(b)* the RAC Foundation and *(c)* other motoring organisations on the appropriate weight limits for alloy wheels fitted to vehicles on UK roads; and if he will make a statement. [23348]

Mike Penning: Ministers have regular discussions with a number of organisations, including both the AA and the RAC Foundation, at which a wide range of road safety issues are discussed. However, the issue of the appropriate weight limits for alloy wheels has not been raised.

I also refer the hon. Member to my answer of 28 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 460-61W.

Alloy Wheels

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* ministerial colleagues and *(b)* his officials on proposals to introduce a legal weight limit for alloy wheels fitted to vehicles used on public roads; what recent representations he has received on weight limits for alloy wheels since his appointment; and if he will make a statement. [23296]

Mike Penning: The Secretary of State for Transport has not had any discussions with ministerial colleagues or officials on proposals to introduce a legal weight limit for alloy wheels fitted to vehicles used on public roads.

The Secretary of State for Transport has had one representation on weight limits for alloy wheels. I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 28 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 460-461W.

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 28 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 460W, on alloy wheels, if he will place in the Library a copy of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe regulation on alloy wheels. [23324]

Mike Penning: A copy of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Regulation 124 (Uniform Provisions concerning the Approval of Wheels for Passenger Cars and their Trailers) has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Alloy Wheels: Imports

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations he has received on defective alloy wheel imports; and if he will make a statement. [23349]

Mike Penning: The Secretary of State for Transport has had one representation regarding potentially substandard imported commercial vehicle wheels.

Existing legislation already requires new products, including wheels, which are placed on the market to be safe and fit for purpose. Action can be taken if a product is found to be unsafe.

BRB (Residuary): Land

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for the land in the ownership of BRB (Residuary) Ltd when that body is abolished. [23264]

Mrs Villiers: BRB (Residuary) Ltd will continue its agreed programme to dispose of land that has been determined to have no further operational transport use on terms that deliver the best value for money to the taxpayer.

Any land still held by BRB (Residuary) Ltd when it is abolished will transfer to the direct ownership of the Secretary of State for Transport.

Bus Services: Finance

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment he has made of the likely effects on the number of buses operating in rural areas of the reduction in Bus Service Operators Grant in combination with *(a)* likely levels of local authority spending on bus services and *(b)* the abolition of Rural Bus Subsidy Grant; [23196]

(2) what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the reduction in the Bus Service Operators Grant in combination with projected levels of local authority

spending on bus services on the number of buses operating in *(a)* rural, *(b)* non-metropolitan urban and *(c)* metropolitan areas. [23197]

Norman Baker: Outside London, around 80% of local bus services in England are provided by operators on a commercial basis. Local authorities procure the remaining 20%. It is up to local authorities to decide how they use their funding. As we do not know what the likely level of local authority spending on bus services will be in the future, we are not able to estimate what the effects will be on the number of buses. The impacts will vary according to each local authority's decision.

With regard to the potential impacts of the reduction in Bus Service Operators Grant, I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 2 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 702W.

Northern Hub

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his most recent assessment is of progress in the development of the Northern Hub. [23464]

Mrs Villiers: Network Rail is developing the Northern Hub plans and will complete the next stage in spring 2011. We then expect Network Rail to include the Northern Hub in its initial strategic business plan.

This will enable us to consider in 2012 whether a Northern Hub scheme can be funded and what progress can be made on the project during the next Network Rail control period (2014-15 to 2019-20).

Rolling Stock: South East

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects new rail rolling stock for the South East to be purchased; and on which lines it is expected to run. [23327]

Mrs Villiers: An announcement regarding Thameslink and rolling stock in the South East will be made in due course.

The South East will also benefit from the additional capacity provided by the Crossrail project, which was confirmed by the Government on the 20 October. On completion, this will deliver new trains on routes across London into Essex, Kent and Berkshire.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Catering

Mr Frank Field: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission, how many complaints the Commission has received on the operation of catering facilities in the House of Commons in each of the last five years. [22630]

Sir Stuart Bell: The Commission has not directly received complaints about the operation of catering facilities other than a letter about the recent price rises. Complaints are received by the Director of Catering Services in various written or oral forms, including comment books in some of the catering outlets, but no record is kept of the overall number.

Mr Leech: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission, (1) if he will estimate the contribution to annual UK greenhouse gas emissions of meat and dairy produce procured for sale in House of Commons catering outlets in the latest period for which figures are available; [23136]

(2) how much *(a)* meat and *(b)* dairy produce was disposed of unused by catering outlets in the House in the most recent year for which figures are available. [23137]

Sir Stuart Bell: The House of Commons Catering and Retail Service does not keep records that would enable these figures to be estimated.

Mr Leech: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission, if he will review the amount of meat and dairy produce procured for sale in House of Commons catering outlets for the purpose of reducing the level of such produce consumed in the House of Commons. [23138]

Sir Stuart Bell: This is a matter for personal choice. All catering outlets in the House of Commons offer a menu that gives consumers the opportunity to eat vegetarian or fish dishes if they wish to avoid eating meat or dairy products.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

British Waterways: Finance

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consideration she has given to continuing her Department's funding of British Waterways. [23326]

Richard Benyon: The level of grant for British Waterways is currently being considered, following the outcome of the spending review. The reduction in British Waterways' grant will not be any greater because British Waterways is becoming a charity than it would otherwise have been, as the Government wish to get the charity off to the best start that we can afford. The move to charity status will require a long-term contract for continued Government support.

British Waterways: Scotland

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she had discussions with the Scottish Executive on her proposal for the transfer to a mutual trust of assets held by British Waterways in Scotland. [23215]

Richard Benyon: British Waterways Scotland currently manage Scottish assets for the benefit of the inland waterways in Scotland. When British Waterways in

England and Wales becomes a charitable body, its non-operational property portfolio will transfer to the new body. The Scottish Executive has decided that British Waterways Scotland will remain in the public sector and use the existing legal structure to exercise its functions solely in relation to Scotland. Scottish assets will continue to be managed by British Waterways Scotland on behalf of the Scottish Executive. We will be discussing with the Scottish Executive and British Waterways other issues relating to assets.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department has established processes to monitor any effects of proposed reductions in its expenditure. [21633]

Richard Benyon: The Department publishes equality/regulatory impact assessments for all proposals that impose or reduce costs on businesses or civil society, or which affect costs in the public sector. These assessments establish a basis for subsequent monitoring and ex-post evaluation and are updated at the relevant stages of the policy development cycle.

Food: Labelling

Gordon Birtwistle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will take steps to require halal meat offered for sale to be labelled as such. [22813]

Mr Paice: I appreciate that this is an issue which people feel strongly about and we will be working with interested groups to find a way to address their concerns. People should know what they are buying in shops and when they are eating out, and I will be discussing with the food industry whether labelling and point of sale information can play a greater role in giving consumers a choice.

Sewers: Private Sector

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many pumping stations there are; [22702]

(2) what estimate she has made of the monetary value of the private drains, sewers and pump stations that are due to transfer to sewerage companies from 1 October 2011; [22707]

(3) when she expects Ofwat to publish its plan for the transfer of private drains, sewers and pump stations to sewerage companies; [22708]

(4) what plans she has for the implementation of the transfer of private drains, sewers and pump stations to sewerage companies; [22709]

(5) what recent representations she has received from the drainage industry on the proposed transfer of private drains and sewers to sewerage companies; [22710]

(6) what estimate she has made of the likely effects on small and medium-sized enterprises in the waste-water sector of the transfer of private sewers and lateral drains to sewerage companies; [22711]

(7) what consultation her Department undertook with the pumping station industry prior to the publication of the draft Water Industry (Schemes for Adoption of Private Sewers) Regulations 2011; [22712]

(8) what assessment she has made of the likely effects on the incidence of flooding of the proposed transfer of private drains, sewers and pump stations to sewerage companies; [22713]

(9) what assessment she has made of the average change in water bills of the implementation of the proposed transfer of funding for private drains and sewers to sewerage companies; and if she will make a statement; [22714]

Richard Benyon: On 26 August the Government and the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) jointly published a consultation paper on draft regulations for transfer to the ownership of the water and sewerage companies of private sewers and lateral drains which drain to the public sewerage system in England and Wales. The consultation, supplemented by a series of workshops held jointly with WAG, seeks final responses by 18 November. To date, DEFRA has received many representations from the drainage industry. The current consultation follows earlier consultations on the subject in 2003 and 2007, to which DEFRA also received many responses, and is available via the DEFRA website.

In addition to the formal consultation process, DEFRA has been working closely with a steering group including the water industry regulator Ofwat, the Environment Agency, Water UK, the Consumer Council for Water, WAG, other Government Departments and representatives of local authorities, the insurance industry, house builders and the drainage industry. DEFRA has also held meetings with more specialist groups including representatives of the pump installation and maintenance industry, to hear their views and gather evidence. Representations from the independent drainage sector have focused on concern about the approach taken by the water and sewerage companies to the procurement of maintenance services after transfer.

The current impact assessment was published with the August consultation paper. It estimates the transfer to result in an increase in annual sewerage bills in the range £3 to £14. This includes the cost of the transfer of private pumping stations, based on an estimated number of 22,000. It also contains a Small Firms Impact Test and considers the benefits to householders including reduced incidence of blockages, which can result in sewer flooding. It is not anticipated that incidence of surface water flooding will be significantly affected. The impact assessment will be updated in the light of the outcome of the consultation.

JUSTICE

Criminal Proceedings: Translation Services

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of compliance with the EU Directive on the right to translation and interpretation in criminal proceedings; and from which budget within his Department funding for such services will be drawn. [23213]

Mr Blunt: In my written ministerial statement on 16 September 2010, *Official Report*, columns 64-66WS, the Government announced proposed changes to arrangements for the provision of interpretation and translation services across the justice sector. The changes aim to reduce waste and cut costs whilst safeguarding quality. Until the work is complete it is not possible to provide an accurate assessment of any potential costs arising from the directive. Interpretation and translation costs are met from within a range of operational budgets across the justice sector.

Google

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* timescale and *(b)* terms of reference are for the audit of Google's Street View project announced by the Information Commissioner on 3 November 2010; and if he will make a statement. [22797]

Mr Djanogly: Google will be subject to an audit by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) within nine months of signing an undertaking, which is intended to commit the company to take action ensuring that breaches of the Data Protection Act of the kind which have occurred do not occur again. Terms of reference will be agreed prior to the audit.

This information has been provided by the ICO.

Information Commissioner: Complaints

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average time taken was for the Office of the Information Commissioner to respond to complaints in latest period for which figures are available. [22799]

Mr Djanogly: The following table shows the average number of days taken by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) to resolve complaints, broken down by data protection and freedom of information for the period 1 November 2008 to 31 October 2010.

	Days
Data protection	73
Freedom of Information	155

This information has been provided by the ICO.

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many complaints the Office of the Information Commissioner has *(a)* received and *(b)* responded to in the last 24 months. [22800]

Mr Djanogly: The following table shows the number of data protection and freedom of information complaints received and finished by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for the period 1 November 2008 to 31 October 2010.

	Data protection	*Freedom of information*
Casework received	62,560	7,540
Casework finished	62,616	7,872

This information has been provided by the ICO.

Information Commissioner: Training

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which training programmes in *(a)* information and communication technologies and *(b)* the internet staff of the Office of the Information Commissioner have attended in the last 24 months; how many staff attended each such course; and what accreditation they received in each case. [22798]

Mr Djanogly: In the last 24 months staff at the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) have attended the following courses:

Course title	*Accredited*	*Number of delegates*
Digital Identity Briefing	No	23
Core skills in data recovery and analysis	National Policing Improvement Agency	2
Internet data—RIPA or open source	No	10
Internet and Computer Related Crime	No	1

Staff have attended the following courses related to the internet, but focused on the use of the ICO's own website:

Course title	*Accredited*	*Number of delegates*
Google analytics workshop	No	1
Optimising your site using Google analytics	No	1
Google analytics interpretation	No	2

This information has been provided by the ICO.

Judges: Documents

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what steps he is taking to ensure that judges have access to all relevant documents; [23006]

(2) what recent representations he has received from Immigration Judges on access to copies of appellants' records of convictions. [23007]

Mr Djanogly: My officials have recently received a number of representations from members of the judiciary that the United Kingdom Border Agency is not always providing copies of appellants' records of convictions and other relevant documents for immigration and asylum appeals. The Tribunals Service will ensure that these issues are addressed as part of its regular liaison arrangement with the judiciary and the United Kingdom Border Agency considering what more could be done to ensure that the relevant documentation is provided by the respondent.

Prisoners' Release

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether he plans to review the automatic release point for persons sentenced to determinate prison sentences; [22937]

(2) whether he plans to review the powers of courts to impose extended supervision in cases where individuals are sentenced to determinate prison sentences. [22938]

Mr Blunt: We are conducting an assessment of sentencing policy to ensure that it is effective in deterring crime, protecting the public, punishing offenders and cutting re-offending. That assessment includes consideration of the release and supervision of offenders serving determinate sentences. We will publish proposals for consultation in a Green Paper on sentencing and rehabilitation in December.

Prisoners: Heroin

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* drug caches including heroin, *(b)* needles used for drug taking, *(c)* prisoners testing positive for heroin use and *(d)* prisoners who on a first test did not test positive for heroin use but subsequently tested positive for such use were detected in each prison in the last 10 years. [23257]

Mr Blunt: NOMS records centrally the number of drugs and drug-taking paraphernalia seized in prisons but this cannot be disaggregated to provide the number of *(a)* drug caches, including heroin and *(b)* needles used for drug taking seized in each prison in the last 10 years without incurring disproportionate cost.

Data relating to *(d)* how many prisoners who on a first test did not test positive for heroin use but subsequently tested positive for such use are not available.

The data for how many samples tested positive for opiate use, including heroin, under the prison mandatory drug testing programme in each prison in the last 10 financial years are shown in the following table. To disaggregate the data to show those samples positive for heroin from those positive for other opiates would require a detailed investigation of every prison's locally held records, which would be at disproportionate cost.

The figures contained in the table have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing data, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system. The data are not subject to audit. A space indicates that there was no testing in that period at that establishment.

Positive drug tests due to opiates across the prison estate from 2000 to 2010

Financial year	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Acklington	76	80	28	25	39	41	28	24	29	25
Albany	1	2	0	10	5	6	17	13	18	20
Altcourse	76	120	92	75	88	74	127	231	154	122
Ashfield	29	31	10	10	3	3	12	7	0	4
Ashwell	99	31	20	21	39	39	25	15	30	11
Askham Grange	13	20	6	0	15	9	13	9	3	0
Aylesbury	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bedford	55	57	19	25	25	40	75	44	28	26
Belmarsh	102	91	68	22	35	24	38	33	25	21
Birmingham	273	96	29	141	172	124	203	121	94	91
Blakenhurst	305	216	396	214	287	378	245	237	—	
Blantyre House	1	4	6	0	1	1	1	0	1	2
Blundeston	16	34	21	10	17	27	21	29	26	28
Brinsford	14	15	16	5	3	0	0	1	0	1
Bristol	40	41	25	18	52	26	44	57	56	48
Brixton	116	77	51	36	32	52	53	42	80	97
Brockhill	27	15	22	19	25	29	18	15	—	—
Bronzefield	—	—	—	—	26	28	33	18	8	13
Buckley Hall	72	57	30	33	33	21	86	139	57	27
Bullingdon	82	75	24	59	59	94	86	131	90	136
Bullwood Hall	25	16	24	1	3	1	1	0	0	1
Bure	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Camp Hill	88	60	17	17	27	20	25	29	43	31
Canterbury	66	55	47	26	17	43	21	1	2	0
Cardiff	55	45	32	42	33	60	99	101	48	48
Castington	3	6	7	3	3	5	2	0	2	0
Channings Wood	39	53	4	5	23	11	33	50	67	73
Chelmsford	23	38	13	12	37	44	35	39	34	22
Coldingley	18	25	25	18	44	46	42	44	53	70
Cookham Wood	23	7	9	2	15	12	13	2	0	0
Dartmoor	23	50	53	26	41	24	51	78	81	40
Deerbolt	9	8	4	1	2	1	0	1	0	0
Doncaster	224	318	177	222	154	144	236	133	63	72
Dorchester	24	28	13	22	15	21	29	23	2	13
Dovegate	—	57	70	74	84	120	139	185	103	80
Dover	2	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Positive drug tests due to opiates across the prison estate from 2000 to 2010

Financial year	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Downview	32	10	38	20	32	23	5	22	37	18
Drake Hall	11	31	21	10	26	13	33	23	7	12
Durham	110	80	38	20	20	34	41	57	43	44
East Sutton Park	8	11	0	6	3	7	0	2	4	2
Eastwood Park	60	15	6	25	21	37	47	38	34	23
Edmonds Hill	—	—	—	16	17	14	13	22	25	32
Elmley	192	136	79	37	75	55	74	158	162	122
Erlestoke	35	30	18	18	28	35	32	45	54	37
Everthorpe	98	91	39	33	40	41	103	97	50	34
Exeter	35	39	10	12	12	18	17	17	18	10
Featherstone	102	65	39	19	38	59	101	224	86	63
Feltham	2	4	1	0	2	5	8	3	2	5
Ford	21	24	38	32	29	63	64	74	30	31
Forest Bank	199	213	138	177	261	349	360	363	200	155
Foston Hall	89	35	5	9	29	25	22	19	8	19
Frankland	56	61	34	25	38	23	31	61	33	50
Full Sutton	48	60	29	28	34	20	39	48	37	30
Garth	99	85	29	18	48	88	74	76	97	81
Gartree	26	12	6	16	15	14	29	23	12	25
Glen Parva	78	50	13	3	6	4	1	4	1	2
Gloucester	25	18	33	11	30	20	29	50	23	20
Grendon	1	5	3	11	6	8	10	5	2	4
Guys Marsh	37	23	25	28	30	25	45	62	83	98
Haslar	3	0	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Haverigg	50	72	44	18	50	77	63	106	152	83
Hewell	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	115	59
Hewell Grange	18	4	7	17	19	19	8	6	—	—
High Down	208	77	42	44	65	59	23	31	31	65
Highpoint	55	63	42	22	38	50	104	76	77	28
Hindley	3	8	2	3	2	3	4	5	2	9
Hollesley Bay	14	5	10	13	9	17	9	14	27	16
Holloway	38	25	13	11	16	25	33	15	23	32
Holme House	116	77	59	71	50	31	48	80	50	61
Hull	51	43	35	19	48	52	27	34	15	6
Huntercombe	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Kennet	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	31	29	21
Kingston	9	16	8	7	15	18	26	23	12	10
Kirkham	47	47	48	70	46	41	65	51	44	23
Kirklevington	7	5	5	0	18	3	7	7	6	7
Lancaster	46	71	66	20	30	14	29	43	27	20
Lancaster Farms	2	3	2	4	4	1	1	1	1	0
Latchmere House	13	0	2	5	3	3	3	2	2	1
Leeds	159	126	97	117	123	70	50	61	56	61
Leicester	58	39	13	16	23	15	23	14	15	23
Lewes	116	92	25	45	59	63	101	130	98	73
Leyhill	72	97	69	114	100	63	52	56	51	37
Lincoln	89	61	24	39	94	58	27	51	48	37
Lindholme	77	52	75	30	49	35	52	83	40	35
Littlehey	49	25	11	14	15	11	16	24	20	18
Liverpool	309	228	207	245	368	374	216	220	144	84
Long Lartin	116	125	90	73	64	76	77	82	44	32
Low Newton	79	58	29	16	31	40	12	16	9	6
Lowdham Grange	58	68	28	25	36	55	59	79	60	49
Maidstone	22	27	23	37	32	58	40	52	37	9
Manchester	249	243	214	190	153	161	102	126	104	160
Moorland	30	38	29	23	34	20	31	43	18	3
Moorland Open	6	10	3	11	16	32	7	6	3	5
Morton Hall	5	23	10	12	6	7	9	3	2	4
Mount	47	55	63	24	52	181	185	117	86	61
New Hall	44	32	12	16	36	28	21	21	8	21
North Sea Camp	20	26	18	44	30	36	30	8	8	12

Positive drug tests due to opiates across the prison estate from 2000 to 2010

Financial year	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Northallerton	8	6	6	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
Norwich	67	53	27	22	37	30	28	16	18	29
Nottingham	86	56	39	33	25	63	79	106	55	28
Onley	2	0	3	0	15	32	45	45	19	12
Parc	19	4	12	26	14	18	18	23	18	65
Parkhurst	57	34	37	30	21	37	25	26	27	15
Pentonville	103	173	85	53	92	115	105	130	109	100
Peterborough Female	—	—	—	—	—	52	48	31	31	19
Peterborough Male	—	—	—	—	—	55	133	178	90	113
Portland	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Preston	110	69	35	35	93	115	95	84	69	50
Ranby	82	64	62	40	43	50	108	198	83	56
Reading	2	4	2	0	3	2	1	3	0	0
Risley	155	165	190	149	194	163	105	88	80	60
Rochester	9	8	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Rye Hill	1	89	19	27	28	27	57	42	34	33
Send	12	14	4	5	15	3	14	23	13	5
Shepton Mallet	26	17	17	2	4	2	0	6	5	2
Shrewsbury	80	42	68	64	67	38	62	42	50	29
Spring Hill	13	9	7	9	20	33	15	16	18	10
Stafford	162	140	84	69	78	134	141	110	43	26
Standford Hill	23	38	28	23	31	46	70	24	23	16
Stocken	107	84	15	10	21	23	37	54	21	28
Stoke Heath	4	0	2	2	1	4	2	3	1	1
Styal	70	90	36	39	83	141	202	96	44	50
Sudbury	89	117	91	108	128	86	70	112	65	69
Swaleside	121	99	33	47	109	63	56	118	63	70
Swansea	7	22	20	21	21	12	9	24	22	16
Swinfen Hall	3	1	0	0	7	6	5	2	0	0
Thorn Cross	5	1	4	2	1	1	0	0	2	2
Usk/Prescoed	5	7	8	15	18	24	23	17	13	24
Verne	21	25	4	7	23	10	4	9	10	15
Wakefield	14	3	5	6	8	8	16	29	17	22
Wandsworth	101	108	55	74	86	61	52	49	75	65
Warren Hill	—	—	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wayland	42	57	30	26	13	23	36	33	46	50
Wealstun	112	69	77	29	63	53	53	41	30	14
Weare	44	42	16	7	10	8	—	—	—	—
Wellingborough	129	65	17	11	31	26	31	55	42	43
Wellington	2	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Wetherby	3	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whatton	5	2	2	2	3	3	4	9	9	8
Whitemoor	103	100	48	26	34	24	59	60	37	30
Winchester	72	39	10	27	35	24	20	29	36	68
Wolds	26	26	13	21	18	20	27	36	26	23
Woodhill	40	58	14	25	36	32	60	80	80	86
Wormwood Scrubs	38	30	24	54	73	57	72	44	70	53
Wymott	89	60	26	73	125	156	98	134	92	83

Prisons: Heroin

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were arrested at each prison on suspicion of offences related to bringing heroin into a prison in the last 10 years. [23192]

Mr Blunt: NOMS does not hold information on the number of people arrested at each prison on suspicion of offences related to bringing heroin into prison.

NOMS policy is that all persons bringing drugs into prisons should be referred to the police for investigation.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent representations on heroin use in prisons he has received from *(a)* the National Treatment Agency and *(b)* general practitioners. [23266]

Mr Blunt: Ministry of Justice Ministers have not had any representations from the National Treatment Agency or general practitioners on heroin use in prisons. Ministry of Justice officials are in dialogue with NTA staff and a range of organisations that work with offenders with drug problems to develop a new, recovery focused, approach to getting offenders off drugs.

Terrorism: Detainees

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of proposals at EU level to review the length and conditions of pre-charge detention in member states. [23218]

Mr Blunt: A Green Paper on pre-trial detention is likely to be published by the European Commission. The Government will make an assessment of any subsequent proposal as and when it is published.

EDUCATION

Apprentices: Insolvency

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what mechanisms are in place to assist young people on apprenticeships to companies which become insolvent to complete their apprenticeships. [22993]

Mr Hayes: I have been asked to reply.

We have developed flexibilities to help apprentices who are made redundant or at risk of being made redundant. These apprentices are helped to find a new employer by their training provider, or moved into college to allow them to complete their apprenticeship. Redundant apprentices can continue their training within a provider setting for up to six months while they and their provider look for an alternative employer.

If a redundant apprentice is close to completing their framework and has evidence of the relevant employer experience, we expect providers, sector skills councils and awarding bodies to be considerate in their individual circumstances in order to support them in completing their course of study. Apprenticeship vacancies also gives redundant apprentices online access to vacancies in their area and information to help deal with apprentice, employer and training provider concerns.

British Educational Communications and Technology Agency: Coventry

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to consult employees of *(a)* Becta and *(b)* the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Authority in Coventry over the planned closure of each body. [11941]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 27 July 2010]:* Bringing Educational Creativity to All is a strand of work by the Government's Educational Technology Agency, BECTA, so it does not have any allocated employees itself. The British Educational Communications and Technology Agency (BECTA) and the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency (QCDA), which are both based in Coventry, are planned to close.

The Department is working closely with the management teams of both agencies to ensure that staff are consulted and provided with all the support that they need as the agencies move towards closure. Staff development programmes are being delivered that will support advice and counselling, job search, career planning, and CV writing and interview skills.

Both agencies are consulting the Public and Commercial Services (PCS) union, the recognised trade union, and all staff, about the risk of redundancy.

Kelsey Park Sports College

Jim Dowd: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what discussions he has had with *(a)* the London Borough of Bromley Education Authority and *(b)* other parties on the future of Kelsey Park Sports College, Beckenham since his appointment; and if he will make a statement. [19290]

Mr Gibb: The Secretary of State received a petition in September containing 750 signatures from a parents' group in Beckenham, informing him that they are keen for Kelsey Park sports college to benefit from the support offered by the Harris Federation. He has written to Bromley local authority in support of the campaign by local parents for the Harris Federation to become the sponsor of Kelsey Park sports college. The Harris Federation has an outstanding track record on improvement and is seen by local parents to be best placed to support the schools.

Literacy: Primary Education

Kevin Brennan: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will publish each item of research commissioned by his Department into the efficacy of its Every Child a Reader programme. [23379]

Mr Gibb: The Department has commissioned an independent evaluation of Every Child a Reader which is due to be completed in early 2011.

The final evaluation report for the programme will be made publicly available and copies will be placed in the House Libraries.

Kevin Brennan: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent evaluation he has made of the performance of the Every Child a Reader programme against its objectives. [23380]

Mr Gibb: We regularly evaluate the progress of the Every Child a Reader (ECaR) programme against a range of management information. However, the programme is currently undergoing an independent evaluation, to report in early 2011, which will give a substantive view of the impact of the programme.

Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to announce the date on which the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency will close; and which of the agency's functions he proposes to incorporate into his Department. [22125]

Mr Gibb: The Secretary of State announced on 27 May 2010 that he would abolish the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency (QCDA). He also confirmed that certain of the QCDA's work, notably the delivery of national curriculum tests, will need to continue. The abolition of the QCDA is subject to legislation which we intend to introduce in January 2011. Subject to the will of Parliament, closure would follow soon after Royal Assent.

The Secretary of State announced on the 5 November that he was establishing an executive agency within the Department for Education which would be responsible for statutory assessment and testing for pupils up to 14 (Key Stage 3). I wrote to the chair of the Select Committee on Education to inform him of the new arrangements. A copy of the letter has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. We will announce further details about the future of any other areas of work that will need to continue beyond the abolition of the QCDA in due course.

Schools: Health Education

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department has spent on awareness campaigns in secondary schools on *(a)* alcohol or substance abuse, *(b)* bullying and *(c)* domestic violence in the last 12 months. [18338]

Mr Gibb: In the financial year 2009-10 the Department spent £311,000 on school-based activities as part of the FRANK campaign. FRANK is a multi-media drug and alcohol awareness campaign and helpline. Its key purpose has been to ensure that young people understand the risks and dangers of drugs and know where to go for advice and help. Total departmental expenditure on FRANK in 2009-10 was £1.5 million.

The Department spent £5.16 million on the Why Let Drink Decide? campaign in 2009-10, through which materials and information were made available to schools and youth services.

The Department does not have a breakdown of its expenditure on raising awareness of bullying in secondary schools, although it spent £484,024 on general awareness-raising of bullying in the 2009-10 financial year and up to the end of September 2010.

The Department has provided no funding for awareness campaigns on domestic violence.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Manpower

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the in-country staff turnover rate of his Department was in the last *(a)* 12 and *(b)* 24 months; and what assessment he has made of the effect of such turnover rates on overseas project outcomes. [23267]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not retain central records of the staff turnover rate in individual country offices and has not made a specific assessment of the impact of staff turnover on project outcomes. The majority of DFID staff in-country are locally engaged staff (known as Staff Appointed in Country) who provide a high level of continuity in managing programmes and projects. Around one-third of staff in-country are UK-based Home Civil Servants, who typically serve between one and three years in post before moving to another job. The timing of moves for UK-based staff are carefully managed by heads of country offices in order to minimise the impact on programme outcomes.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Access to Work Programme

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 1 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 558W, on the Access to Work programme, when he expects to *(a)* set programme budgets for the period to 2014-15 and *(b)* announce any change to the (i) amounts available and (ii) extent of availability to disabled people under the Access to Work programme. [23121]

Maria Miller: Following the spending review settlement we are now scrutinising all aspects of departmental expenditure, to ensure that we deliver the most effective range of services possible at the best value for money. Access to Work will be part of this. Budgets for directly delivered programmes such as Access to Work are subject to in-year review and it is not possible to specify in advance the amounts that will be spent. Information on spend is however available after the end of a financial year.

In the year 2009-10 the Access to Work programme spent £98 million and helped over 37,000 disabled people to stay in work, and we are on course to help even more disabled people in 2010-11.

The coalition agreement set out our commitment to Access to Work, including plans to reform the programme so disabled people can apply for jobs with funding already secured for any adaptations and equipment they will need and I expect to make an announcement about this shortly.

Cold Weather Payments: Winter Fuel Payments

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of recipients of *(a)* cold weather and *(b)* winter fuel payments in (i) Wales, (ii) Scotland, (iii) Northern Ireland and (iv) England are solely resident in care or residential homes. [23254]

Steve Webb: Cold weather payments are not payable to people in the UK who are solely resident in care or residential homes.

The information requested is not available for winter fuel payments in Great Britain. Information regarding Northern Ireland is the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Office.

Council Tax: Scotland

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what occasions he has discussed the devolution of council tax rebate with *(a)* the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, *(b)* local authorities in Scotland and *(c)* the Scottish Executive since his appointment. [23217]

Steve Webb: No formal discussions have yet taken place with local authorities, the associations representing them, or with the devolved Administrations about the proposal announced in the spending review to localise support for council tax benefit in local authorities in England, Scotland, and Wales. Preliminary discussions have taken place at official level with the Scotland Office and the Government will have discussions with the devolved Administrations as part of the policy development process.

Disability Living Allowance: Medical Examinations

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of appeals against medical assessments for disability living allowance undertaken by each company contracted to perform such assessment for his Department were upheld in the most recent 12-month period for which records are available. [21368]

Maria Miller: Around 80% of applications have additional information requested. Some of this is medical assessment. We are unable to say how many and what proportion of successful appeals there were against medical assessments for disability living allowance (DLA). DLA appeals can be made against all decisions and the management information systems of the Pension, Disability and Carers Service (PDCS) and the Tribunal Service do not go to the level of detail that would identify those appeals specifically related to medical assessments.

Only one company is contracted to provide medical assessments for disability living allowance for the Department. Atos Healthcare was awarded the contract commencing September 2005 following open competitive tender for a period of up to 12 years.

Note:

The figure for applications is for the 2009-10 financial year.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions—2009-10 RDA60205/60209 report—DLA Management Information Statistics.

Employment Schemes

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his policy is on Government assistance for organisations which seek to increase employment opportunities for *(a)* disabled people and *(b)* others who experience complex barriers to employment; and if he will make a statement. [20976]

Maria Miller: The Department is committed to working with organisations which seek to increase employment opportunities for disabled people and others who experience complex barriers to employment to improve the job outcomes of people who are seeking to enter and remain in work.

To this end, we will introduce the Work Programme which will be an integrated package of support providing personalised help to a broad range of individuals, including those who may previously have been receiving incapacity benefits for many years. We will offer providers differentiated levels of payment for supporting harder customers into work that reflect levels of support to ensure it is worthwhile for providers to offer different customer groups appropriate support. We aim to have the Work Programme in place nationally by the summer of 2011.

As of 25 October 25 2010 we launched Work Choice, a new pan-disability supported employment programme for disabled people, which provides tailored support and targets those customers who face the most complex barriers in reaching or retaining employment, including self-employment. Under a new funding model in which prime providers work closely with their subcontractors, individuals get early, quality support that helps them progress at work and, where it is appropriate for the individual, helps them move into sustainable long-term employment.

Funeral Payments

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claims have been made for a funeral payment in the last five years. [22758]

Steve Webb: The information requested is given in the table.

Funeral payment claims received in Great Britain

Financial year	*Number*
2005-06	67,700
2006-07	67,100
2007-08	65,000
2008-09	68,600
2009-10	67,600

Notes:

1. The information provided is management information. Our preference is to answer all parliamentary questions using official/National Statistics but in this case we only have management information available. It is not quality assured to the same extent as official/National Statistics and there are some issues with the data, for example, numbers of funeral payment claims do not include claims which were processed clerically and had not been entered on to the social fund computer system by the end of the relevant financial year.
2. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 100.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claims for a funeral payment have been *(a)* rejected and *(b)* accepted in the last five years. [22759]

Steve Webb: The available information is given in the following table.

Funeral payments in Great Britain

Financial year	*Number of initial refusals*	*Number of awards*
2005-06	27,300	42,000
2006-07	27,700	41,200
2007-08	27,500	39,500
2008-09	31,700	40,500
2009-10	32,600	39,000

Notes:

1. The information provided is Management Information. Our preference is to answer all parliamentary questions using Official/National Statistics but in this case we only have Management Information available. It is not quality assured to the same extent as Official/National statistics and there are some issues with the data, for example, numbers given do not include claims which were processed clerically and had not been entered on to the Social Fund Computer System by the end of the relevant financial year.
2. The number of awards includes those made after re-consideration or appeal.
3. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 100.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of recipients of funeral payments where that payment did not meet the full cost of the funeral for which the payment was made in the latest period for which figures are available. [22760]

Steve Webb: In April to October 2010, in Great Britain, the number of Funeral Payment initial awards which did not meet the full cost of the funeral for which the payment was made was 17,100.

Notes:

1. The information provided is Management Information. Our preference is to answer all parliamentary questions using Official/National Statistics but in this case we only have Management Information available. It is not quality assured to the same extent as Official/National statistics and there are some issues with the data, for example, the number given does not take into account claims which were processed clerically and had not been entered on to the Social Fund Computer System by the end of October 2010.

2. A Funeral Payment covers the necessary cost of specified expenses (mainly burial or cremation costs) plus up to £700 for non-specified expenses. Deductions are made for money immediately available (apart from the claimant's own savings).

3. The number is for initial decisions and does not include the impact of re-considerations or appeals.

4. The number has been rounded to the nearest 100.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment has been made of the adequacy of the level of funeral payments in order to meet the basic cost of a funeral. [22761]

Steve Webb: Funeral payments provide a contribution towards the costs of a simple, respectful, low cost funeral.

The amount allowable covers the necessary cost of specified items, including burial or cremation fees, plus up to a maximum of £700 for all other funeral expenses. The average funeral payment awarded in 2009-10 was £1,208.

Note:

The figure has been rounded to the nearest £1.

Source:

Annual report by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the Social Fund 2009-10

Homelessness

Miss Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department plans to review the statutory definition of homelessness. [23040]

Grant Shapps: I have been asked to reply.

There have been problems with the way homelessness has been perceived and measured in the past. That is why the Government made it an early priority to overhaul the way rough sleeping levels are measured, which revealed figures that are almost three times higher than previously reported. We are committed to maintaining a robust homelessness safety net, and will keep the current framework under review to ensure that local housing authorities in England have sufficient flexibility to meet housing need in the most effective way.

Housing Benefit

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects the Social Security Advisory Committee to report on the proposed changes in housing benefit; and if he will make a statement. [22122]

Steve Webb: We have received the Social Security Advisory Committee's report on the proposed changes to housing benefit in 2011 and are considering our response. We will publish a Command Paper shortly.

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the findings were of the equalities impact assessment on the proposed changes to housing benefit; and how many recipients of housing benefit are *(a)* black or ethnic minority people, *(b)* single mothers with children, *(c)* working mothers with children and *(d)* two parent families with children. [22248]

Steve Webb: The Department published a document on "Impacts of Housing Benefit proposals: Changes to the Local Housing Allowance to be introduced in 2011-12" and a separate equality impact assessment on the 23 July. A copy of the documents has been placed in the Library.

(a) The following table shows the distribution of benefit units in receipt of housing benefit by ethnicity of the head of the benefit unit:

Ethnic group, head of benefit unit	*Percentage of benefit units*
White	89
Mixed	1
Asian or Asian British	2
Black or Black British	5
Other (including Chinese)	2

Source:

2006-07, 2007-08, and 2008-09 Family Resources Survey, United Kingdom.

As at July 2010, our records show that there were:

(b) 1,031,120 recipients of housing benefit who were single mothers with children;

(c) 255,470 recipients of housing benefit who were single working mothers with children;

(d) 484,560 recipients of housing benefit that were two-parent families with children.

Notes:

1. The Single Housing Benefit Extract does not collect robust information on ethnicity to enable a reliable breakdown.

2. Data for 2008-09 Family Resources Survey were collected between April 2008 and March 2009.

3. The Family Resources Survey is a nationally representative sample of approximately 25,000 UK households.

4. The Family Resources Survey is known to under-record benefit receipt so the estimates presented should be treated with caution.

5. The figures from the Family Resources Survey are based on a sample of households which have been adjusted for non-response using multi-purpose grossing factors which align the Family Resources Survey to Government office region population by age and sex. Estimates are subject to sampling error and remaining non-response error.

6. Figures have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.

Source:

Single Housing Benefit Extract for July 2010. Figures rounded to the nearest ten recipients.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how much in housing benefit has been paid to individuals in *(a)* Wimbledon constituency and *(b)* the London Borough of Merton in each year since 1996-97; [23188]

(2) how much was paid in housing benefit to individuals in *(a)* Wimbledon constituency and *(b)* the London Borough of Merton for a (i) one bedroom, (ii) two bedroom, (iii) three bedroom and (iv) four bedroom property in each year since 1996-97. [23189]

Steve Webb: Housing benefit expenditure data by parliamentary constituency and number of bedrooms are not available. The available information is shown in the following table.

Benefit expenditure data can also be found at the following URL:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/index.php?page=hbandctb_expenditure

Housing benefit expenditure London borough of Merton

	£ million (nominal terms)
1996-97	41.6
1997-98	38.3
1998-99	36.5
1999-2000	36.2
2000-01	34.9
2001-02	35.0
2002-03	38.7
2003-04	41.4
2004-05	45.4
2005-06	49.4
2006-07	52.3
2007-08	56.6
2008-09	61.5
2009-10	71.9

Source:
Local Authority Subsidy Returns
Housing Benefit expenditure tables can be found at the following URL:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/index.php?page=hbandctb_expenditure

Nanotechnology: Safety

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the adequacy of measures to protect water supplies from contamination with nano-silver. [23053]

Richard Benyon: I have been asked to reply.

The Drinking Water Inspectorate has commissioned research to understand the extent of any potential risk to drinking water posed by nano particles, including nano silver, and the pathways nano particles could take. This study complements one commissioned by DEFRA, looking at nano silver in sewage effluents, to provide robust values on the discharge of colloidal silver in sewage effluent for the purposes of river catchment risk modelling. The Drinking Water Inspectorate's research findings will inform the regulatory risk assessments and raw water monitoring undertaken by water companies for each individual drinking water supply.

Private Rented Housing

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of families with children that are likely to be affected by the implementation of proposals to allow social housing providers to charge up to 80 per cent. of market rent. [23029]

Grant Shapps: I have been asked to reply.

We will publish more detail on the implementation of new 'affordable rent' tenure shortly. This scheme is intended to increase the chance for those on housing waiting lists to have access to affordable housing. Moreover, existing social tenants will retain their existing rights and tenure. Families with children have been poorly served by a system which saw the number of households languishing on the waiting lists nearly double.

Public Sector: Redundancy Pay

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the average cost to the public purse of redundancy and other payments made by public sector organisations in respect of redundancies of *(a)* 100 or more, *(b)* 250 or more and *(c)* 500 or more employees. [21984]

Danny Alexander: I have been asked to reply.

The costs of redundancies vary according to the scheme applicable to that work force, depending on factors such as length of tenure, salary and type of exit. It is for individual employers to determine their costs on this basis and according to their budgets.

Winter Fuel Payments: Older People

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people aged *(a)* 60 to 64, *(b)* 65 to 69, *(c)* 70 to 79 and *(d)* 80 years or over in Mid Sussex constituency were in receipt of winter fuel allowance in each year since 2005. [23331]

Steve Webb: The information is in the table.

Winter fuel allowance

					Recipients
Age	*2009-10*	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*
Mid Sussex parliamentary constituency	23,020	22,520	21,850	20,990	20,320
Under 60	10	—	10	—	n/a
60-64	6,200	6,160	5,900	5,360	n/a
65-69	4,730	4,370	4,160	3,990	n/a
70-79	7,010	7,000	6,900	6,850	n/a
80 and over	5,080	4,990	4,890	4,790	n/a

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 and therefore totals may not sum.
2. '—' denotes nil or negligible.
3. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2005.
4. DWP are currently working to produce 2009-10 winter fuel payment figures for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
5. The 'under 60' category contains cases where an income support/job seeker's allowance claimant receives a payment on behalf of their partner who is aged 60 or over.
6. The age breakdown for 2005-06 winter fuel payments shows a larger than expected number of recipients aged under 60 compared with subsequent years. The age breakdown has been withdrawn while the figures are investigated.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate 100 percent data.

CABINET OFFICE

Arts

Simon Kirby: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many jobs are dependent on the digital arts industry; in which geographical areas those jobs are concentrated; and if he will make a statement. [23803]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2020:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning the number of jobs in the UK dependent on the digital arts industry (23803).

The requested information is not available.

Civil Servants: Conservative Party

Mr Winnick: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the *(a)* name and *(b)* post is of each civil servant paid from the public purse who was employed by the Conservative Party in May 2010. [23210]

Mr Maude: I refer the hon. Member to the letter the Cabinet Secretary sent to the hon. Member for Barnsley East (Michael Dugher) on 10 November 2010. A copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

Civil Servants: East Ayrshire

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent consideration his Department has given to relocating civil service jobs to *(a)* East Ayrshire and *(b)* Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituency; and if he will make a statement. [22634]

Mr Maude: As at end March 2010, 1,127 civil service posts had been relocated to Scotland, although none of these went to East Ayrshire or the Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituency. There are currently no plans to relocate further posts. However the Government are committed to achieving efficiency savings through further rationalisation and reduction of Government's presence in London and elsewhere, and this could lead to further posts being relocated.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Dr Huppert: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps his Department is taking to improve its level of compliance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [16941]

Mr Maude *[holding answer 13 October 2010]:* The Department aims to deal with FOI cases in accordance with the provisions of the legislation. It is taking a number of steps to improve its performance. For example, further training for members of staff handling FOI requests.

Departmental Policy

Mr Watson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what departmental policy reviews his Department has undertaken since 6 May 2010; on what date each such review *(a)* was announced and *(b)* is expected to publish its findings; what estimate he has made of the cost of each such review; who has been appointed to lead each such review; to what remuneration each review leader is entitled; how many (i) full-time equivalent civil servants and (ii) seconded staff are working on each such review; from which organisations such staff have been seconded; and how much on average such seconded staff will be paid for their work on the review. [21890]

Mr Maude: The following independent reviews have been undertaken since 6 May and are based in the Cabinet Office:

Review on Poverty and Life Chances

(a) The Prime Minister announced the review on 5 June 2010.

(b) The final report will be delivered in mid-December and the anticipated cost is in the order of £20,000, excluding civil service salaries. The review is led by Frank Field MP who does not receive any remuneration for this role but is entitled to reasonable travel expenses.

(i) The team consists of five full-time and two part-time civil servants.

(ii) All staff have been loaned from home Departments. None are seconded from outside Whitehall.

Review on Early Intervention Delivery

(a) The review was announced on 28 July 2010 by the Work and Pensions Secretary.

(b) The review will report to the Government's Social Justice Cabinet Committee in two stages: (i) in January 2011 on models of best practice around early intervention; and (ii) by May 2011 on new ways to fund early intervention. In addition to staff costs, the anticipated cost of the review is expected to be less than £50,000. The review is led by Graham Allen MP who is not being paid for his time but will be entitled to reasonable travel expenses.

(i) The team consists of five full-time and one part-time civil servant.

(ii) All staff have been loaned from home Departments. None are seconded from outside Whitehall although staff costs are expected to include £36,600 to be used on expert advice from the WAVE Trust and the Social Research Unit in Dartington.

Emergencies: Weather

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what mechanisms his Department has put in place in respect of winter emergency planning. [22200]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office has well established business continuity and disaster recovery arrangements in place. These arrangements ensure that the Department can continue to function effectively and ensure that its core business is sustained in response to any event that poses a threat to its ability to deliver its services.

These plans are regularly reviewed, tested and if necessary amended to ensure that they remain up to date and comprehensive.

In addition, the Cabinet Office works with other Departments to ensure that arrangements are in place, nationally and locally, to respond to a wide range of potential challenges, including winter disruption.

Futurebuilders Fund

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what arrangements are in place to ensure that payments for schemes under the Futurebuilders programme are available in cases where final invoices are not presented by the end of the financial year; and if he will make a statement. [23119]

Mr Hurd: The Futurebuilders programme is managed by the Social Investment Business under contract to the Cabinet Office. All Futurebuilders investees have been advised by the Social Investment Business that all funding must be drawn down by 31 March 2011.

Government Departments: Procurement

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the proportion of Government contracts to be awarded to small and medium-sized enterprises in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [22499]

Mr Maude: The coalition Government has set an aspiration that 25% of contracts should be awarded to SMEs. There are no plans at this stage to change this aspiration.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office from what date Government Departments will be required to publish figures on the number of procurement contracts awarded to small and medium-sized enterprises. [22500]

Mr Maude: The previous Government did not keep data on the total SME spend in Government. We are in the process of collecting this data and all new contracts over £10,000 will be published from January 2011.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what plans he has to require Departments to publish their plans for increasing the proportion of Government contracts to be awarded to small and medium-sized enterprises. [22724]

Mr Maude: We intend to agree actions with individual Departments once baseline figures for SMEs in procurement are published later this month. Departments will be responsible for publishing their plans.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many different pre-qualification questionnaires are used in Government Departments. [22725]

Mr Maude: This information is not held centrally. However, we are aware that pre-qualification questionnaires vary significantly between organisations. We are simplifying and standardising a single set of pre-qualification questions, which will be mandated for use in central Government.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what timetable he has set for the adoption of a simplified, standardised pre-qualification questionnaire for contractors seeking contracts with all Government Departments. [22726]

Mr Maude: The standardised pre-qualification questionnaire will be mandated on 1 December to central Government Departments including Departments, their agents and agencies and all non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs).

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what timetable his Department has set for its *(a)* consideration of and *(b)* decision on the method for rolling out simplified and standardised pre-qualification questionnaires to (i) local authorities, (ii) the NHS and (iii) other public sector bodies. [22727]

Mr Maude: The standardised pre-qualification questionnaire will not be mandated to local authorities, the NHS or other public sector bodies outside central Government. However, the core questions will be made available for any public sector body to use, and we will encourage authorities across the wider public sector to adopt this standard.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how frequently he expects Government Departments to publish figures on the proportion of procurement contracts awarded to small and medium-sized enterprises. [22869]

Mr Maude: We will be asking Departments, when they award a contract, to make transparent whether it has gone to an SME, in line with our commitment to publish contract details from January 2011. This information will be available for public scrutiny alongside other Government datasets.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what timetable he has set for the Government to meet its aspiration to award 25 per cent. of Government contracts to small and medium-sized enterprises. [22871]

Mr Maude: On 1 November we announced a package of measures to move us further towards meeting the aspiration to award 25% of Government contracts to SMEs. Work on this package of measures began immediately.

We intend to agree actions with individual departments once baseline figures for SMEs in procurement are published later this month.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which aspects of existing pre-qualification procedures adversely affecting small and medium-sized enterprises are to be addressed through the introduction of a simplified and standardised pre-qualification questionnaire. [22876]

Mr Maude: Excessive bureaucracy and a lack of standardisation of pre-qualification questionnaires (PQQs) are among the obstacles to securing government business most cited by small and medium-sized enterprises. In simplifying the PQQ we are stripping out questions that inadvertently discriminate against SMEs, eg levels of insurance or financial data; and removing those questions that have become redundant.

The simplified set of standard core questions will enable a streamlined and consistent approach to pre-qualification across central Government.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether he has assessed the merits of changing the *(a)* terms and *(b)* size of contracts offered by Government Departments in order to meet the aspiration of awarding 25% of such contracts to small and medium-sized enterprises. [22877]

Mr Maude: The Prime Minister has appointed Lord Young of Graffham as his Adviser on Enterprise, to identify ways in which government can remove barriers to growth faced by SMEs, and to maximise ways in which Government Departments and the public sector can support SME growth through reforming Government procurement. Work is ongoing to make procurement faster and cheaper to open it up to more SMEs.

Royal National Lifeboat Institution

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether the Royal National Lifeboat Institution is eligible to receive funding from *(a)* the Big Society Bank and *(b)* the Transition Fund for the voluntary sector. [22763]

Mr Hurd: The Big Society Bank will not deal directly with frontline organisations. Instead it will operate at a wholesale level through social investment intermediaries to catalyse growth in the social investment market, encouraging mainstream investors to invest in social enterprises and broadening the finance options open to the sector. This means it may indirectly invest in the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

The Transition Fund will give organisations the breathing space they need to adjust to the new spending environment. It is a chance to review the ways they are working and prepare for a future where there will be more opportunities to engage in the Big Society agenda. The Fund will be delivered by the BIG Fund, the non Lottery funding operation of the Big Lottery Fund, and will be open to organisations with an income of between £50,000 and £10 million who are most vulnerable to short-term reductions in public spending. Detailed eligibility criteria will be available shortly and we expect applications to open at the end of this month.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Corruption

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to combat corruption in Afghanistan at *(a)* local and *(b)* national level. [23300]

Alistair Burt: The UK is working closely with the Government of Afghanistan to support their efforts to tackle corruption.

At the national level, the UK provides direct support to the Major Crimes Task Force and the Anti-Corruption Prosecution Office in the Attorney-General's Office. In addition, we have played a supporting role in developing other Afghan structures designed to tackle corruption—including the Independent High Office of Oversight—and have been working with the Afghan Government to establish a Monitoring and Evaluation Committee to oversee anti-corruption efforts. We are also working with the World Bank and IMF to strengthen Afghanistan's public financial management and with the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), and are involved in projects to strengthen accountability of the police, build civil society and make delivery of Government services more transparent.

At the local level in Helmand, we are mentoring and supporting justice officials and tracking cases, in order to limit opportunities for corruption in the justice sector.

Departmental NDPBs

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reviews of its non-departmental public bodies his Department plans to undertake in the next three years. [22900]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office regularly reviews the performance of its non-departmental public bodies. The formal timetable for reviews over the next three years, announced by the Cabinet Office, has not yet been agreed.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Michael Ellis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on recent attempts to pass a letter to Gilad Shalit via the International Committee of the Red Cross. [20073]

Alistair Burt: We have called repeatedly for the release of Gilad Shalit and will continue to do so, and the international community will continue to work towards that end. We are aware of media reports on the specific issue highlighted but do not have further information.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to *(a)* the Israeli Government and *(b)* the US Administration on the need for negotiations with the Palestinians for the purposes of securing a peace settlement; and if he will make a statement. [22722]

Alistair Burt: During my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's visit to the region on 2 to 4 November, he emphasised to both the Israeli and Palestinian Prime Ministers the need to persist with direct negotiations and the risk that the window would otherwise close on a two state solution. He underlined to the Government of Israel the need to announce a new moratorium on settlements so that talks can continue. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discusses these issues regularly with Secretary Clinton and Senator Mitchell.

Nigeria: Christianity

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what recent representations his Department has made to the government of Nigeria on the situation of Christians in Jos Province; [23307]

(2) what recent reports he has received on the incidence of discrimination against Christians in Jos Province, Nigeria. [23308]

Mr Bellingham: Staff from our high commission in Abuja and the Department For International Development have regular discussions with political, religious and traditional leaders, both Christian and Muslim, in the city of Jos in Plateau State. Our assessment is that both communities in Jos have suffered discrimination in various ways and appalling loss of life in inter-communal violence this year. We continue to believe that this conflict has a religious element but is being driven by underlying social, political and economic factors.

I raised inter-communal violence with Vice President Namadi Sambo on 21 October. Our high commission has met the Christian State Governor, Jonah Jang, and also discussed these issues with Chief Solomon Lar, head of the Presidential Committee on the Jos Crisis, on 21 September. We encourage the Government of Nigeria to consider the implementation of the Presidential Committee's recommendations in accordance with the views of all parties in Plateau State.

Occupied Territories: Housing

Simon Danczuk: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his *(a)* Israeli and *(b)* Palestinian counterparts on the Israeli government's plans for new settler homes in East Jerusalem; and if he will make a statement. [23038]

Alistair Burt: We are extremely disappointed by the decision of the Israeli Government to issue tenders for the construction of further settlements in east Jerusalem. This is not helpful.

As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made clear during his recent visit to the region, settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories are an obstacle to peace. Their construction should stop.

Official Visits: Diplomatic Immunity

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether Ministers of foreign governments have immunity from arrest during visits to the UK. [22801]

Mr Bellingham: Whether a visiting Minister of a foreign government is entitled to immunity from arrest in the UK will depend on the status of the person concerned, whether they are travelling on official government business, as well as on other considerations. By virtue of their office, immunities will attach to visiting Heads of State, Heads of Government and Ministers of Foreign Affairs, as well as, by extension, other Ministers who travel by virtue of their office. The extent to which such immunities may attach to other visiting senior officials will fall to be determined case by case depending on their status and the reasons for their visit to the UK.

Yemen: Politics and Government

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in Northern Yemen; and what his foreign policy objectives are for Northern Yemen. [23299]

Alistair Burt: The February 2010 ceasefire holds in Northern Yemen, despite low-level skirmishing.

We are concerned about the lack of an agreed political settlement and support the Qatari-led mediation efforts.

We encourage all sides to facilitate humanitarian access to those Yemenis who have been internally displaced.

We support a peaceful, prosperous and unified Yemen.

Yemen: Terrorism

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to take steps to assist the government of Yemen to strengthen its capabilities against militants. [23288]

Alistair Burt: We are concerned about the terrorist threat in the Arabian Peninsula.

We are helping the Yemeni Government build its capability to disrupt Al Qaeda and to tackle the underlying grievances which fuel conflict.

Terrorism and conflict are challenges which the Yemeni Government must address. We continue to support them in their efforts.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment his Department has made of alternative strategies for the campaign in Afghanistan other than *(a)* war among the people and *(b)* total military withdrawal. [21182]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 4 November 2010]:* None. NATO's strategy in Afghanistan is the product of considerable discussion and seeks to bring about a more secure Afghanistan. The international community and Afghans are protecting the civilian population from the insurgents, building up the capability of the Afghan National Security Forces, transferring security responsibility for districts and provinces to Afghan control once they are ready, and supporting a more effective Afghan government.

The international community is united in backing the mission and, as the Kabul conference has shown, we share a clear, realistic and achievable strategy and we are seeing progress.

Aircraft Carriers

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Rafale aircraft the new aircraft carriers will be able to accommodate. [22247]

Peter Luff: The Queen Elizabeth Class Aircraft Carriers have been designed with the capacity to deploy up to 36 Joint Strike Fighters. The number of Rafale aircraft that they could accommodate will depend on their support requirements under different planning assumptions which we are now evaluating.

Anti-submarine Warfare

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many times air assets of allied nations have been used in anti-submarine operations in UK waters in the last 12 months. [22901]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 9 November 2010]:* None.

Armed Forces: Kent

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of residents of Maidstone and the Weald constituency serving in the armed forces; and how many of those are under the age of 21. [21483]

Mr Robathan: Residential address information for serving personnel is not held with reference to parliamentary constituency and there are questions over the accuracy and completeness of what is held, as the information is maintained by the individual Service person.

Further information on the stationed location of UK Regular Forces is published quarterly by the Ministry of Defence and can be found at the following website:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page=48&pubType=0&thiscontent=100&PublishTime=09:30:00&date=2010-08-26&disText=01%20Jul%202010&from=listing&topDate=2010-08-26

I will place a copy of the publication in the Library of the House.

Astute Class Submarines

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how far HMS Astute was from the area normally used for personnel transfers when the submarine grounded on 22 October 2010; [20119]

(2) when he expects the Board of Inquiry report into the grounding of HMS Astute to be published; [20120]

(3) whether, following the grounding of HMS Astute on 22 October 2010, the reactor on the submarine was shut down automatically or manually; [20121]

(4) what role the Naval Emergency Monitoring Team (North) played in the response to the grounding of HMS Astute on 22 October 2010; [20130]

(5) what use HMS Astute made of the *(a)* operational berth in Loch Ewe and *(b)* the former operational berth in Broadford Bay following the grounding of HMS Astute on 22 October 2010; [20131]

(6) whether HMS Astute returned to HMNB Faslane after its grounding on 22 October 2010 using diesel power or nuclear power. [20758]

Peter Luff: Following the grounding of HMS Astute on 22 August 2010 and in accordance with standard procedures, the Naval Emergency Monitoring Team were mobilised and forward deployed but were not required. The reactor was deliberately shut down as a precautionary measure but once refloated, and following routine checks, a normal reactor start up was carried out to allow the submarine to proceed under her own nuclear power to Faslane. There was no requirement to use the operational berth in Loch Ewe or the former operational berth in Broadford Bay.

The position of HMS Astute at the time of personnel transfers will be subject to a formal Service Inquiry. The Service Inquiry commenced on 25 October 2010 and will be published once all parallel investigations are complete.

Defence: Industry

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the change in the number of jobs in the UK defence industry consequent on implementation of the proposals in the Strategic Defence and Security Review. [21315]

Peter Luff: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 2 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 695W, to the hon. Member for North Durham (Mr Jones).

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many officials in his Department have been *(a)* subject to disciplinary action, *(b)* removed from post, *(c)* transferred to another position and (d) dismissed for matters relating to their (i) disciplinary record and (ii) performance in each year since 1997. [18727]

Mr Robathan: Prior to April 2007 all cases were managed locally and data are not available. From April 2007 all cases have been centrally recorded. The data, where held, have been grouped by financial year together with relevant additional information.

(a) Subject to disciplinary action

Financial year	*Number of individuals*
2007-08	715
2008-09	865
2009-10	935
2010-11 (to date)	420

(b) Removed from post

The data relate to individuals who were recorded as downgraded.

Financial year	*Number of individuals*
2007-08	5
2008-09	—
2009-10	—
2010-11 (to date)	—

(c) Transferred to another position

The disciplinary process does not permit a transfer to another position as a suitable penalty.

(d) Dismissed for matters relating to their disciplinary record and performance

Financial year	*Conduct*	*Performance*
2006-07	60	10
2007-08	50	5
2008-09	60	—
2009-10	55	5
2010-11 (to date)	25	5

Notes:

1. These figures include the Ministry of Defence main employees only. They exclude trading funds, agencies and the Royal Fleet Auxiliary.
2. To prevent disclosure numbers have been rounded to the nearest five.
3. '—' denotes 0 or numbers less than five.

Departmental Pay

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was paid to officials in his Department and its non-departmental public bodies in bonuses and other payments in addition to salary in each year since 1997; how many officials received such payments; and what the monetary value was of the largest 20 payments made in each such year. [18725]

Mr Robathan: The information is as follows:

Non-consolidated performance awards—MOD: A close and effective link between pay and performance is a key element of the reward arrangements for the civil service. The performance element of pay is colloquially known as a bonus, but it is a misleading description because the performance-related element of pay is not additional, it is part of the departmental pay bill.

For the senior civil service (SCS) performance incentives are paid primarily as non-consolidated performance payments. Any award is based on a judgment of how well an individual has performed against their peers and awards are made to those judged to have made the greatest in-year contribution to business objectives. There is no restriction on the nature of the contribution but it must benefit the Department or defence more widely. Recommendations for awards are considered by moderation committees and must be linked to clear evidence of delivery.

All satisfactory performers at SCS level were eligible to be considered for a non-consolidated performance award in line with Cabinet Office guidelines and the MOD pay strategy.

Financial year 2003-04 was the first year in which the MOD paid non-consolidated performance awards to any of its staff.

The following table details how much was paid to members of the SCS in non-consolidated performance payments by financial year.

Senior fixed term employees are individuals who are recruited through fair and open competition from outside the civil service. Those employed as senior fixed term appointees (FTAs) are on individual contracts and have a higher percentage of pay set to performance awards which are judged against stringent and stretching delivery based objectives. Some have staged payments and it is now usual to pay a smaller annual performance award with the remainder deferred for two to three years and judged against the delivery of medium to longer term objectives. Performance is judged by line management with assistance from senior officials, stakeholders, remuneration committees and in some cases internal audit.

Details of how much has been paid in non-consolidated awards and to how many SCS each year are shown in tables 1 and 2. Table 3 shows the monetary values of the largest non-consolidated payments made in each year to the combined SCS population of permanent staff and fixed term appointees.

Table 1—SCS permanent staff

Performance year	2009-10	2008-09	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04
Financial year	2010-11	2009-10	2008-09	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05
Number of awards paid	169	195	187	186	181	181	136
Value of awards paid (£)	995,500	1,594,500	1,501,700	1,325,700	1,178,500	899,822	711,737

Table 2—SCS fixed term appointees

SCS FTA performance year	2009-10	2008-09	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04
Financial year	2010-11	2009-10	2008-09	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05
Number of awards paid	[1]17	27	16	10	12	16	13
Value of awards paid (£)	338,122	838,393	333,915	78,874	80,478	119,688	80,347

[1] Six yet to be decided

Table 3—Top 20 highest non-consolidated awards for combined SCS population

Financial year	£
2010-11	49,937
	49,900
	35,113
	25,755
	24,360
	22,153
	17,000
	15,750
	15,605
	15,000
	15,000
	13,800

Table 3—Top 20 highest non-consolidated awards for combined SCS population

Financial year	£
	12,500
	12,500
	12,500
	12,500
	12,500
	12,500
	12,485
	10,674
2009-10	84,563
	75,000
	72,540
	55,350
	50,000
	50,000
	48,720
	48,000
	31,470
	30,750
	30,000
	30,000
	25,765
	24,101
	22,888
	21,337
	21,033
	16,200
	15,000
	15,000
2008-09	88,296
	61,250
	50,000
	48,000
	37,675
	31,703
	30,780
	30,000
	30,000
	30,000
	27,600
	24,000
	23,085
	22,085
	22,000
	21,546
	20,480
	19,000
	17,163
	17,091
2007-08	63,000
	50,000
	48,000
	24,000
	21,000
	20,000
	18,468
	17,716
	17,600
	17,600
	17,340
	15,450
	15,341
	14,500
	14,500
	12,750
	12,750
	12,240
	10,690
	10,000
2006-07	19,253
	16,000
	14,721
	14,000
	14,000
	14,000
	14,000
	12,546
	11,000
	11,000
	11,000
	11,000
	10,000
	10,000
	10,000
	10,000
	10,000
	10,000
	10,000
	10,000
2005-06	14,340
	12,250
	10,000
	10,000
	10,000
	10,000
	9,000
	9,000
	9,000
	7,863
	7,500
	7,500

Table 3—Top 20 highest non-consolidated awards for combined SCS population

Financial year	*£*
	7,500
	7,500
	7,500
	7,500
	7,500
	7,500
	7,500
	7,500
2004-05	11,358
	10,445
	9,821
	9,203
	8,777
	8,759
	8,695
	8,650
	8,600
	8,540
	8,463
	8,365
	8,256
	8,226
	8,226
	8,125
	7,400
	7,370
	7,069
	7,004

For staff below the SCS, non-consolidated performance awards are paid to staff who meet the eligibility criteria. Higher levels of award are available for those who have contributed most to the business. These awards are distributed on the basis of relative assessment among peers and are designed to encourage continuous high attainment against stretching objectives.

The MOD also operates an in-year non-consolidated payment scheme, the special bonus scheme (SBS), which rewards eligible MOD civilians for exceptional performance in a specific task or for the achievement of a professional qualification the use of which benefits MOD and the individual. Separate arrangements apply to Ministry of Defence police (MDP) officers.

In 2007 the Department moved to a new pay system and the ability to interrogate payments made through the SBS before this date has been diminished and therefore any effort now to try and access this data would require a disproportionate cost. SBS data is though available for financial years 2003-04 to 2006-07 because it was reported in previous parliamentary questions.

The following table details the total value of payments made to staff below the SCS by way of non-consolidated performance payments and SBS awards by financial year.

Financial year	*Total value of awards made (£)*	*Total number of awards made*[1]
2003-04	24,113,406	39,369
2004-05	33,947,217	46,269
2005-06	43,038,937	49,093
2006-07	41,060,624	55,339
2007-08	46,256,490	61,878
2008-09	47,516,913	71,940
2009-10	44,231,916	66,585
2010-11	0	0

[1] It is not possible to state how many individuals received awards since the data is held as the number of awards made and not the number of recipients.

Note:

Figures for financial year 2010-11 will not be available before 30 April 2011 since SBS awards are payable in year.

This response excludes information on staff below the SCS in MOD trading funds which have separate pay delegations.

With the exception of the National Museum of the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force Museum, figures for the Department's non-departmental public bodies are included in the figures above.

Like the MOD, financial year 2003-04 was the first year in which non-consolidated performance awards were paid to staff at the National Museum of the Royal Navy. The following table details the total value of payments made to staff by way of non-consolidated performance payments awards by financial year.

Financial year	*Total value of awards made (£)*	*Number of staff receiving awards*	*Value of largest 20 payments*
2003-04	12,100	19	£425-£1,300
2004-05	19,650	21	£625-£2,100
2005-06	21,860	20	£625-£2,025
2006-07	20,525	23	£300-£2,900
2007-08	21,750	29	£400-£1,560
2008-09	27,020	43	£400-£1,565
2009-10	5,203	37	All £141

The National Museum of the Royal Navy has no special bonus scheme.

The Museum does not keep records going back to 1997, but since 2004 non-consolidated performance awards and other payments have been available for staff employed by the museum and its trading subsidiary through one or more of the following:

a special bonus scheme (typically £7,000 per annum in total has been set aside and payments to staff have been of the order of £250 to £1,000, generally under 10 awards each year).

performance related pay (where the level of award has varied between a percentage-based amount or cash sum—both non consolidated—and is linked to the annual appraisal—individual payments typically being between £400 and £1,000 although in individual cases have been up to £3,000), costing the Museum approximately £100,000 per year.

'incentivised' contracts for key trading subsidiary managers (head of retail or head of corporate events) where payments have varied from zero to over £3,000, depending on the trading subsidiary's performance and a percentage-based award for more junior trading subsidiary staff (typically 1% of salary) the cost falling on the trading subsidiary.

in the case of the director general (until this year) through the non-consolidated performance award scheme applicable to senior civil servants, again linked to the annual appraisal process where payments in excess of £10,000 have been made. No award was made in 2009 and the system does not apply to the newly appointed director general.

The largest payments made were to the director general under the conditions set out in the last paragraph and the directors (where performance awards were percentage-based) although these would have generally been below £5,000.

Other payments: The Department currently has over 500 pay-related allowances and payments in addition to salary available to civilian staff. The majority of which are listed on the People, Pay and Pensions Agency services website:

http://www.pppaservices.qinetiq-tim.com/https@knowledge.chris.r.mil.uk/pppa/index@page=content&id=us131&cat=pay_and_expenses&actp=list.htm

In addition allowances and payments in addition to salary in regard to civilian travel and subsistence claims and transfer allowances are payable. These are listed on the PPPA services website:

http://www.pppaservices.qinetiq-tim.com/https@knowledge.chris.r.mil.uk/pppa/index@page=content&id=pr200&cat=travel_and_subsistence&actp= list.htm

Information on the monetary value of each type of allowance and payment in each year since 1997 is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost for such a large number of allowances and payments. Information is available from July 2007, but will take a short while to compile. I will write to my hon. Friend with the details as soon as possible.

Falkland Islands: Deployment

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what aircraft he expects to be available for operations in the Falkland Islands in the next 10 years. [23002]

Nick Harvey: The Government are unequivocally committed to the defence of the Falklands.

The armed forces have a range of aircraft, both fixed wing and rotary, available for deployment in the Falkland Islands as operational circumstances require. We currently have Typhoon aircraft deployed in defence of the Falkland Islands. We also have a range of further capabilities to deter aggression.

Low Flying

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how often RAF GR4 Tornado pilots are required to re-qualify for operational low flying; where re-qualification is carried out; and from where training flights originate. [22947]

Nick Harvey: Once operational low flying qualified, RAF GR4 Tornado pilots remain qualified provided they conduct at least two operational low flying flights in a six-month period. If re-qualification is required, it is carried out in one of the three operational low flying areas in the UK (Mid Wales, Scottish Borders and West Highlands) or on an overseas exercise where operational low flying is authorised. Training flights are predominantly launched from the two RAF Tornado main operating bases located at RAF Lossiemouth and RAF Marham.

Military Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which of his Department's aircraft are equipped with the *(a)* Searchwater 2000 radar, *(b)* UYS503/AQS970 sonar, *(c)* Northrop Grumman Night Giant EO system, *(d)* DASS 2000 ECM and *(e)* EL/L8300UK ESM; and what the capabilities of each system are. [21442]

Peter Luff: The Airborne Early Warning variant of Searchwater 2000 radar is fitted to the Royal Navy Sea King Airborne Surveillance and Area Control Mark 7 helicopter. The remaining systems are not in service on UK military aircraft.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which aircraft operated by his Department are capable of deploying torpedoes; and what the combat radius of such aircraft is. [22138]

Peter Luff: Royal Navy Merlin and Lynx helicopters are capable of deploying Stringray torpedoes.

I am not prepared to comment on the combat radius of these assets as disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness and security of our armed forces.

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the planned role for maritime patrol aircraft has been in the event of a confrontation between a Royal Navy taskforce and a hostile taskforce *(a)* preparatory to and *(b)* in the course of engaging in action at sea; [22363]

(2) what the role of the Nimrod Mark 2 in detecting potentially hostile submarines has been; what assessment he has made of its effectiveness in fulfilling this role; what provision will be made to fulfil it in future; and if he will make a statement; [22365]

(3) by what method a maritime patrol aircraft capability will be reconstituted in the event of a strategic requirement to do so. [22366]

Peter Luff: Maritime patrol aircraft, including the Nimrod MR2, have contributed to the protection of deployed Maritime Task Groups by tracking submarines and surface ships, and possessing the capability to attack hostile submarines.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 28 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 450-51W, to the hon. Member for East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow (Mr McCann), the right hon. Member for Coventry North East (Mr Ainsworth) and the hon. Member for North Durham (Mr Jones). A range of military assets will be used to mitigate the capability gap which emerged as a result of the withdrawal from service of Nimrod MR2. Further requirements which might emerge as a result of any increase in threat will be considered as part of the Department's capability planning process.

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence to what extent the UK's ability rapidly to deploy maritime forces into areas of high threat will be affected by the loss of a maritime patrol aircraft capability. [22604]

Peter Luff: While I can confirm that we have judged that the decision not to bring the Nimrod MRA4 into service to be operationally manageable, I am not prepared to comment on the levels of protection afforded to our armed forces under potential threat scenarios.

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make it his policy to acquire from the United States a maritime patrol aircraft off-the-shelf platform for the protection of the strategic nuclear deterrent; and what assessment his Department has made of the affordability of a ready-made United States platform. [22606]

Peter Luff: We have not made any assessment of the affordability of procuring a maritime patrol aircraft from the United States, and currently have no plans to do so.

Nimrod Aircraft

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the future of Airborne Maritime Forces following the cancellation of the Nimrod project. [21118]

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what arrangements for aerial surveillance he plans to make consequent on the proposed cancellation of his Department's order for a fleet of Nimrod surveillance aircraft. [21308]

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effect on the UK's independent nuclear deterrent of the decision not to proceed with the Nimrod MRA4 programme. [22579]

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment he has made of the remaining assets which will be available to protect nuclear submarines entering and leaving Faslane in consequence of the cancellation of the MRA4; [20395]

(2) what functions of the Nimrod maritime patrol aircraft have been lost as a result of its withdrawal from service; and which functions will not be replaced; [22362]

(3) when he plans to review the consequences for *(a)* protection of the nuclear deterrent and *(b)* other maritime patrol aircraft roles of the withdrawal of Nimrod; and if he will make a statement. [22364]

Peter Luff: I refer the hon. Members to the answer I gave on 28 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 451W, to the hon. Member for East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow (Mr McCann), the right hon. Member for Coventry North East (Mr Ainsworth) and the hon. Member for North Durham (Mr Jones).

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) for what costs his Department is liable in respect of redundancies for (a) BAE systems employees, *(b)* military service personnel and *(c)* civilian personnel arising from the cancellation of the Nimrod MR4A programme; [22943]

(2) which components of the Nimrod MR4A his Department owns; and what the monetary value is in each case; [22944]

(3) what the *(a)* current and *(b)* projected annual costs are for storage of the Nimrod MR4A airframes and components; [22945]

(4) what stage of completion the remaining Nimrod MR4A aircraft have reached. [22946]

Peter Luff: Following the Strategic Defence and Security Review announcement on 19 October 2010 we have begun discussions with BAE Systems to terminate the contracts for production and support of the aircraft. Until these negotiations are complete I am unable to comment on the likely costs or the impact on personnel employed on the Nimrod MRA4 programme.

To date the Ministry of Defence (MOD) has taken delivery of: the training simulator and building (approximate value £150 million); one production standard aircraft (approximate value £90 million); various rigs (approximate value £100 million) and various spares (approximate value £10 million).

In addition, the MOD has funded the design and development programme, which produced three trials aircraft, and work under the production contract including the purchase and manufacture of components for the production aircraft. Ownership of components funded under these contracts is with the MOD, however, as they are an integral part of the overall contract it is not possible to individually identify the components and their current values.

Storage costs cannot be separately identified in the current Nimrod MRA4 contracts. Any future storage costs associated with the termination of the contract will be a matter for negotiation with BAE Systems.

One Nimrod MRA4 aircraft has been delivered, three aircraft are over 90% complete and the remaining five aircraft are over 40% complete.

Nuclear Submarines

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) for what reasons hand and foot radiation monitors were installed in the reactor compartment tunnels of operational nuclear-powered submarines; and what assessment of the health of nuclear submariners *(a)* was made prior to and *(b)* has been made since the installation of such monitors; [20843]

(2) what assessment he has made of the merits of introducing the in-port, on-land mandatory secondary radiation monitoring of nuclear submariners returning to port at Faslane. [20844]

Peter Luff: The compulsory use of hand and foot contamination monitors was introduced to provide additional reassurance to workers and personnel exiting the reactor compartment of nuclear submarines during maintenance work. The health of submariners is monitored in line with armed forces policy. This process has not changed since the introduction of the hand and foot monitors and no comparative analysis exists.

The introduction of a shore based secondary monitoring system for personnel exiting controlled areas on nuclear submarines is not currently under consideration. Existing arrangements comply with legal requirements and have been the subject of a number of successful inspections by the Health and Safety Executive's Nuclear Installations Inspectorate.

Nuclear Weapons

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence at what location on his Department's website the text of its value-for-money review of the nuclear weapons systems can be accessed; which *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials and *(c)* external experts participated in the review; how much it cost to conduct; and if he will publish each submission made to it. [20727]

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff of his Department were employed on the Trident value-for-money review *(a)* on a part-time basis and *(b)* on a full-time basis; and what estimate he has made of the cost of the review under each category of expenditure. [21381]

Dr Fox: The value for money review's outcomes were published as part of the Strategic Defence and Security Review which can be found at the following link:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/WhatWeDo/PolicyStrategyandPlanning/SDSR/StrategicDefenceAndSecurityReviewsdsr.htm

Because of the classified nature of much of the supporting paperwork there are no plans to publish anything further.

The Ministry of Defence agreed the conclusions of the value for money review before it was passed to the Cabinet Office for consideration by the National Security Council. The Secretary of State, Minister of State for the Armed Forces and the Minister for Defence Equipment, Science and Technology were also closely involved in the review.

The review was conducted by Rear Admiral Philip Mathias and Mr Ian Forber, a senior civil servant from the MOD, both working full time, and a number of other MOD staff provided significant input to the review within the scope of their existing posts. The final staff cost is estimated to be approximately £120,000. In addition, there has been some expenditure on external assistance and technical consultancy for the value for money review which has totalled some £200,000. Overall, the value for money review produced savings of £1.2 billion and deferred spending of up to £2 billion over the next 10 years.

Nuclear Weapons: Decommissioning

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in which location the verification test inspection will be conducted as part of the UK-Norway Initiative in December 2010. [22700]

Nick Harvey: The UK-Norway Initiative will conduct a verification test inspection of a mock facility at the Atomic Weapons Establishment.

Nuclear Weapons: Finance

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the projected expenditure is on the Mk4A refurbishment programme at the Atomic Weapons Establishment in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; [21154]

(2) what estimate he has made of his Department's expenditure on the Nuclear Warhead Capability Sustainment Programme in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; [21155]

(3) what estimate he has made of his Department's expenditure on the Trident replacement future submarine programme in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; [21156]

(4) what estimate he has made of his Department's expenditure on the Atomic Weapons Establishment in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; [21157]

(5) what estimate he has made of his Department's expenditure on the UK nuclear weapon programme, including the atomic weapons establishment and the future submarine programme, in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15. [21158]

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Twickenham of 29 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 1118W, on AWE Aldermaston, how much his Department plans to spend on capital expenditure for the two atomic weapons establishment sites at Aldermaston and Burghfield in each of the next three financial years. [21963]

Dr Fox: Future planned expenditure on the nuclear deterrent will be subject to cost savings measures identified in the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR). This includes expenditure on the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) and the Future Submarine Programme. Release of further detail may prejudice the Ministry of Defence's (MOD) negotiating position with its commercial suppliers, and final savings figures will depend on detailed SDSR-related implementation. The MOD is, therefore, not prepared to release this financial information at this time.

We expect, however, that the in-service costs of the UK's nuclear deterrent, which includes AWE's costs, will remain similar to those of the 2006 White Paper.

The AWE costs associated with the Mk4A modification form part of the Nuclear Warhead Capability Sustainment Programme, which cannot be distinguished from the AWE management and operation costs.

Peacekeeping Operations: Iraq and Afghanistan

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with his US counterpart on the publication on the Internet of classified materials relating to military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. [20098]

Dr Fox: I have had no such discussions. UK and US officials have however discussed this issue.

Queen Elizabeth Hospital Edgbaston

Ms Gisela Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which VIPs have visited the hospital wards managed by his Department at Queen Elizabeth hospital in Edgbaston since the opening of that hospital. [21231]

Mr Robathan: Since the opening of the new Queen Elizabeth hospital in Birmingham on 16 June 2010, there have been nine scheduled VIP visits that included the Military Ward.

In order not to prejudice patient welfare and clinical recovery, VIP visits to the Military Ward are private in nature, and always kept to the minimum. Consequently, we do not wish to publicise the details of who has visited. I am happy to speak personally to the hon. Member on this point. The chief executive of the University Hospital Birmingham Foundation Trust has also arranged visits to the hospital, but we do not hold records of these.

Rescue Services

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he last met officials from the Department of Transport to discuss the search and rescue contract under the private finance initiative; and what the outcome of these discussions was. [22942]

Peter Luff: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence has discussed the search and rescue helicopter project with the Department for Transport on a number of occasions. The last meeting he attended on the subject at which officials from the Department for Transport were present was on 29 July, but Ministers and officials of both Departments have continued to engage subsequently. An announcement on the way forward will be made as soon as the review is complete.

Strategic Defence and Security Review

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to paragraph 3.1 of the Strategic Defence and Security Review, Cm 7948, what the most extreme threats are against which British nuclear weapons are deployed for deterrence purposes. [20730]

Dr Fox: The UK would use nuclear weapons only in extreme circumstances of self-defence and would not use them contrary to international law. We do not define in advance precisely what circumstances we would regard as justifying the use of nuclear weapons or, by implication, indicate actions that an aggressor could take without fear of a nuclear response.

Warships

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department has made of the overall anti-submarine capabilities *(a)* currently and *(b)* in 2015 of (i) the Royal Navy and (ii) the Royal Air Force. [22603]

Peter Luff: Current and future requirements for anti-submarine warfare capability were assessed during the Strategic Defence and Security Review. In view of the sensitive and classified nature of this military task, and the implications for the protection of our armed forces, including the nuclear deterrent, it is not possible for us to comment in detail.

France: Military Alliances

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the likely effects on *(a)* the UK and *(b)* UK armed forces of the Anglo-French treaty on defence and security. [22489]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 9 November 2010]*: The defence and security treaty strengthens the United Kingdom's bilateral relationship with France and offers significant operational, technological and financial benefits. These will be achieved through sharing development and equipment costs, eliminating unnecessary duplication, coordinating logistics, and aligning our research programmes. The treaty also provides the framework for closer co-operation, and improved interoperability, between our armed forces. It will lead to more capable and effective forces and improve our collective defence capability to the benefit of NATO, the UN and the EU.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

BBC: Broadband

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the BBC Trust on the mechanisms by which the BBC plans to fund broadband services. [22990]

Mr Vaizey: I have been asked to reply in my capacity as a Minister in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Department for Culture, Media and Sport discussed the principles of funding broadband with the BBC Trust in the context of the recent licence fee agreement but we have yet to decide the most appropriate mechanism for drawing down the £530 million available for broadband projects.

Broadband: Rural Areas

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent representations he received from representatives of rural communities when formulating the National Broadband Strategy. [21821]

Mr Vaizey: I have been asked to reply in my capacity as a Minister in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has not personally had discussions with representatives of rural communities in forming the National Broadband Strategy. Officials and I have had numerous discussions with a wide range of stakeholders, including representatives of rural communities on subjects that will inform the development of the National Broadband Strategy in meetings and at events such as the conferences I attended in Hereford, Penrith and Abingdon within the last few months.

Broadband: Wales

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what consideration his Department gave to planning a superfast broadband pilot in Wales. [22050]

Mr Vaizey: I have been asked to reply in my capacity as a Minister in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The selection of the superfast broadband pilots was based on an assessment of the proposals put forward by the devolved Administrations and regional development agencies against the criteria set out on the Broadband Delivery UK industry day on 15 July 2010. The proposal from the Welsh Assembly Government was given the same consideration as the other 10 proposals.

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds: Grants

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the monetary value of grants by the Heritage Lottery Fund to the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds was in each of the last five years. [23330]

John Penrose: Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has supplied us with their grants to the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds for the last five years. This information is as set out in the following table:

Financial year	*Grant (£)*
2005-06	3,263,400
2006-07	1,370,670
2007-08	2,570,300
2008-09	941,600
2009-10	123,800

Additionally, in 2009-10 HLF awarded two projects a Round 1 Pass, amounting to £157,700 of funding.

Theatres: Young People

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what information his Department holds on the number of youth *(a)* orchestras, *(b)* dance groups and *(c)* theatres in England. [23128]

Mr Vaizey: The Department does not hold information on the total number of youth orchestras, dance groups or theatres in England.

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport to how many youth *(a)* orchestras, *(b)* dance groups and *(c)* theatres (i) his Department and (ii) non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible provide funding. [23127]

Mr Vaizey: The Department provides funding to youth orchestras, dance groups and theatres through Arts Council England.

In 2009-10 Arts Council England provided funding for 102 individuals and organisations either exclusively for youth arts, or for work that includes a youth art element.

The number of individuals and organisations funded through Grants for the Arts (GFTA) and Regularly Funded Organisation (RFO) status is set out in the following table, along with the percentage of that work that is focused on youth arts.

2009-10 Awards Youth Arts—individuals/organisation

		Percentage of Youth Arts activity				*Grand total*
Classifier	*Funding programme*	25	50	75	100	
Youth Dance	GFTA	12	3	0	5	20
Youth Dance	RFO	18	3	0	0	21
Youth Dance total		30	6	0	5	41
Youth Music	GFTA	9	1	1	6	17
Youth Music	RFO	7	3	0	2	12
Youth Music total		16	4	1	8	29
Youth Theatre	GFTA	5	4	2	8	19
Youth Theatre	RFO	7	2	3	1	13
Youth Theatre total		12	6	5	9	32
Grand total		58	16	6	22	102

HOME DEPARTMENT

Deportation: Private Sector

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer by the Minister of State for Security and Counter-Terrorism of 2 November 2010, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column 1562, on immigration: deportation, if she will publish the UK Border Agency's guidance for private companies on the use of restraint in forced deportations. [23377]

Mrs May: The guidance to which you refer is the Use of Force Manual, owned by the National Offender Management Service (NOMS). The document is restricted on the grounds that knowledge of the specific techniques it contains could be used against officers or to counter attempts to restrain individuals, thus putting at risk good order and discipline in prisons, immigration removal centres and during the escorting of individuals for removal.

For this reason I cannot release a full copy of the manual but arrangements are being made for a redacted version to be placed in the House Library. This contains information about communication skills, medical considerations, personal safety and production of incident reports. The sections detailing the various restraint techniques have been removed.

The UK Border Agency's operating standards for escorts includes one about the use of restraint. The standards are available on the UK Border Agency's website at:

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/managingourborders/immigrationremovalcentres/

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has made an assessment of the outcomes of the randomised injectable opiate treatment trials. [22781]

Anne Milton: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the right hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 4 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 883-84W.

EU Justice and Home Affairs

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what powers the European Commission has to monitor UK compliance with those EU Justice and Home Affairs instruments to which the UK has opted in, under the provisions of the Lisbon treaty; and what jurisdiction the European Court of Justice has over such monitoring. [23378]

James Brokenshire: There are specific provisions in the treaty on the Functioning of the European Union ('TFEU') to enable the European Commission to monitor UK compliance with EU Justice and Home Affairs instruments to which the UK has opted in under the provisions of the Lisbon treaty. There may also be provisions in specific instruments that provide provisions for the Commission to monitor compliance with that particular instrument.

Article 258 TFEU empowers the European Commission to deliver a reasoned opinion to a member state when it considers that the state has failed to fulfil an obligation under the treaties. This includes any obligation arising under those EU Justice and Home Affairs instruments to which the UK has opted in since the entry into force of the treaty of Lisbon. If the member state fails to comply, the Commission may bring the matter before the Court of Justice of the European Union. In accordance with article 260 TFEU, if the Court of Justice of the European Union finds that the member state has failed to fulfil the obligation the member state shall be required to take the necessary measures to comply with the judgment.

Exclusion Orders

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were denied entry to the UK because of concerns about their extremist views in the last 12 months. [22690]

Damian Green: I can confirm that in the period covering 1 November 2009 to 3 October 2010, 11 individuals have been excluded from the UK on these grounds.

Additionally, a decision to deny entry to the UK may be made at the entry clearance application stage, or when a person arrives at the port of entry. Denial of entry may also include individuals who have either been deported from, or removed and subsequently excluded from, the United Kingdom and in certain cases. There are no centrally held records which encompass the total number of foreign nationals who have been denied entry to the UK in this manner because of concerns about their extremist views.

Immigration Controls

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which *(a)* intra-company transfers and *(b)* student visas she plans to exempt from the proposed cap on levels of non-EU immigration; for what reasons the exemptions have been made; and if she will make a statement. [23120]

Damian Green: We will announce the operation of the immigration limit and precise details of how in future individual routes will work in due course. As the Prime Minister said last week, businesses have told us that intra-company transfers should not be part of the annual limit. We have listened carefully to the advice.

Our limit applies to economic routes. We are reviewing the non-economic immigration routes separately, including the student route. We will introduce new measures, where required, to minimise abuse of the student route and to tighten the system further, in support of the aim of reducing net migration to tens of thousands rather than hundreds of thousands.

Immigration: South East

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many residents of *(a)* Reading West constituency, *(b)* Reading, *(c)* Berkshire and *(d)* the South East are awaiting the completion of legacy immigration cases. [23501]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency is unable to accurately report on the number of individuals resident in Reading West constituency, Reading, Berkshire and the South East who have an outstanding asylum case being dealt with by the Case Resolution Directorate (CRD). This is because many records that appear to be open on our database are errors or duplicates that require no further action. We also hold old or incomplete address information for a number of individuals who have lost touch with the agency.

As reported in November 2010 to the Home Affairs Select Committee, CRD had concluded 334,500 cases up to the end of September 2010, of which 48% were duplicates, errors or cases that the agency has been unable to trace.

Squatting: Dartford

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many evictions of squatters from properties in Dartford constituency there have been in each of the last five years. [22804]

Mr Djanogly: I have been asked to reply.

The Ministry of Justice holds statistical information in relation to the number of possession orders against squatters or trespassers made in the county courts of England and Wales, and the number of interim possession orders made, upon delivery of which squatters must leave within 24 hours or be guilty of a criminal offence. There was one possession order made against squatters or trespassers in Dartford county court in 2008 and none in each other year from 2005 to 2009. There were no interim possession orders made in Dartford county court between 2005 and 2009.

Central administrative databases are not able to separately identify how many of these orders were in relation to squatters specifically. The Ministry of Justice also does not hold any statistical information about the number of evictions of squatters from properties.

The civil procedure rules state that all claims for the repossession of land must be commenced in the district in which the land is situated. However, county courts' jurisdictions are not coterminous with constituency boundaries. The above figures do not therefore necessarily relate to properties located in the Dartford constituency area.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Housing: Tenants

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what will be the maximum length of the fixed-term tenancies in the public housing sector announced following the Comprehensive Spending Review. [23094]

Grant Shapps: We have rightly opened a debate about how we can create a social housing system that will provide stability where it is needed; provide more choice for tenants and prospective tenants; protect vulnerable households; and help get people into long-term employment. Existing social tenants will retain their existing rights and tenure. We will publish a policy paper setting out more details shortly.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each of its Ministers in *(a)* September and *(b)* October 2010. [21775]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government did not incur any expenditure on hospitality for events hosted by its Ministers during September and October 2010.

Departmental Regulation

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what regulations he plans to *(a)* repeal and *(b)* amend in the next five years. [23085]

Robert Neill: At present it is too early to project how many regulations will be repealed or amended over the next five years. However, we are already taking steps to reduce the regulatory burden. We are also reducing the unnecessary burden of existing secondary legislation and other forms of regulation to remove needless bureaucracy. We have already announced various changes including the suspension and impending abolishment of home information packs, consolidation of building regulations and consolidation of three sets of tree protection regulations together with streamlining of this system. In addition to this, the forthcoming Localism Bill will contain additional measures that will further free local government from central and regional control so that they can ensure services are delivered according to local needs. Examples of this include radically reforming the planning system to give neighbourhoods much greater ability to determine the shape of the places in which their inhabitants live.

The Government are committed to ensuring that new regulatory burdens on businesses are given full consideration through the new one-in one-out rule, and that new burdens on local government are also fully taken into account. Later this year we will publish our Regulatory Forward Programme which will provide details of all forthcoming regulatory and deregulatory measures.

Housing: Construction

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to his Department's White Paper on Local Growth: realising every place's potential, Cm. 7961, paragraph 3.29, what estimate he has made of the total number of new homes to be built in each of the next six years. [21904]

Grant Shapps: We inherited a catastrophic decline in home building from the previous Government. A combination of divisive top-down targets and a public subsidy-driven approach delivered just 118,000 completions in 2009, the lowest level of house building in England and Wales in peace-time since 1923-24. This is despite the previous Government increasing the notional annual house-building target to 240,000 dwellings a year—showing the disconnect between Whitehall targets and actual house-building.

Under the hon. Member's system, if a local authority built more homes, little of the benefit was seen by the local community. Existing residents saw only further strain on public services. We are wasting no time in taking action.

Rewarding rather than penalising councils and communities for new homes is not only fairer, but will be far more effective. We will create a powerful framework of incentives which will return the economic benefits of growth back to communities.

The cornerstone of this framework is the New Homes Bonus—a powerful, simple, transparent and permanent incentive. The scheme will match fund the additional council tax raised when new homes are built or brought back into use for the following six years and we will increase the incentive for building affordable homes with an additional amount. Those local authorities that take action now to consent to and support the construction of new homes will receive direct and substantial benefit from their actions.

We have set aside almost £1 billion over the spending review period and previously made clear that funding beyond those levels would come from Formula Grant. Almost £200 million will be made available to meet the costs of the scheme in 2011-12.

I am pleased to announce that a formal consultation will be published on 12 November and I will be writing to all local authority leaders and English MPs on this.

Housing: Regeneration

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the likely change in the level of funding under each budget heading for housing market renewal contracts in each local authority in each of the next five years. [23118]

Grant Shapps: The housing market renewal fund as it is currently structured will end in 2010-11. It is not possible to comment at this stage on funding for the continuation of projects in areas covered by housing market renewal pathfinders. Those areas covered by recently announced local enterprise partnerships will be able to bid for funding from the regional growth fund for capital projects. The Government will continue to work with local authorities to enable the delivery of housing and regeneration which have the support of the local community. The spending review also provides for £6.5 billion of investment in housing.

Local Enterprise Partnerships

Mr Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects local enterprise partnerships to be *(a)* established and *(b)* in receipt of Government funding. [23607]

Robert Neill: On 28 October 2010, the Government published their Local Growth White Paper, which set out their approach to achieving local economic growth by shifting power to local levels and helping to create the right conditions for growth and recovery. This included announcing the first 24 local enterprise partnerships which have been given the go-ahead to establish their boards and begin dialogue with central Government on how we can help them realise the ambitions set out in their proposals.

As set out in the White Paper, local enterprise partnerships will be expected to fund their own day-to-day running costs and they may wish to submit bids to the Regional Growth Fund.

Local Government Finance

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will set a floor level for formula grant for local authorities which are below the present floor level for the period of the Comprehensive Spending Review; and if he will make a statement. [23260]

Robert Neill: We will announce our proposals for the distribution of formula grant to the House in due course.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects local authorities to be authorised to proceed with tax increment financing schemes; and what mechanisms he plans to put in place to co-ordinate such financing with capital funding for projects from the Department for Transport. [23506]

Robert Neill: The Government will develop and introduce proposals to implement local retention of business rates, and to introduce Tax Increment Financing powers to allow authorities to fund key projects by borrowing against future increases in business rates, by April 2012. The necessary changes to give effect to this will require primary legislation. This work, including the mechanisms for delivering Tax Increment Financing projects, will be taken forward through the Local Government Resource Review which will start in January 2011.

Local Government: Audit

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the reasons are for the difference between the answers of 18 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 510W, on local government finance and 1 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 519-20W, on the Audit Commission, in respect of the role of the National Audit Office and the duties of district auditors in reporting matters in the public interest. [22814]

Robert Neill: My answers of 18 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 510W and of 1 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 519-20W, are wholly consistent. On 18 October, I set out that the new statutory over-arching framework will be overseen by the profession and National Audit Office. On 1 November I explained that local district auditors will retain a duty for reporting specific issues in the public interest and that it is not envisaged that the National Audit Office will assume any of the Audit Commission's functions in this respect. Such functions are about the handling of the public interest report.

Multiple Occupation: Licensing

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will issue guidance to local authorities on the application to a community of practising Buddhists of the provisions of schedule 14(5)(1) of the Housing Act 2004. [23211]

Grant Shapps: The Department for Communities and Local Government has no current plans to issue guidance on schedule 14(5)(1) of the Housing Act 2004. It is for local authorities to assess on a case by case basis whether a building is subject to the licensing provisions.

Planning Permission

Joseph Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward legislative proposals to prevent repeat applications for planning development in cases where the first attempt has been rejected by the local council. [23178]

Robert Neill: Since April 2009, local authorities have powers, under section 70B of the Town and Country Planning Act (1990), to decline to determine repeat planning applications. This applies where:

> The same (or a substantially similar) application has been rejected by the Secretary of State on appeal or following a call-in, within the previous two years; or
>
> The local planning authority itself has refused two or more substantially similar applications in the previous two years, and there has been no appeal against refusal to the Secretary of State.

Social Rented Housing: Coventry

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to increase the social housing stock in Coventry. [22787]

Grant Shapps: The Department does not forecast levels of future house building and delivery will be determined by local housing plans. In the spending review we announced almost £4.5 billion investment in new affordable housing to deliver up to 150,000 affordable homes. We are giving housing associations much more flexibility on rents and use of assets, so our aspiration is to deliver as many homes as possible through our investment and reforms. We will publish details of how these proposals will work shortly.

Special Areas of Conservation: Bromley

Joseph Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward proposals to designate areas of special residential character designated by the London borough of Bromley as special areas of conservation. [23177]

Robert Neill: This is a matter for local authorities. They have statutory responsibility for designating such areas, once they have assessed which parts of their area have special architectural or historic interest. English Heritage also has the power to designate conservation areas in Greater London, subject to prior consultation with the council of the London borough(s) concerned.

Wind Power: Planning Permission

Nigel Adams: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will issue guidance to planning authorities on the minimum admissible distance of wind turbine developments from dwellings. [23156]

Robert Neill: Current planning policy already advises local planning authorities that the distances between wind turbines and dwellings should be decided on a case by case basis so that local factors can be taken fully into account.

HEALTH

Autism: Health Services

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department's forthcoming statutory guidance for local authorities and NHS organisations to support implementation of its autism strategy will require the provision of brokerage services to support adults with autism to manage individual budgets and direct payments for social care. [23091]

Paul Burstow: The national consultation on the statutory guidance closed on 22 October. We are currently in the process of analysing the response, which will inform the further development of the statutory guidance. Ministers will then consider a revised draft and take final decisions on content. We would not wish nor would it be appropriate to anticipate this process.

The Autism Act sets the publication date for the statutory guidance, which must be produced and published before 31 December 2010.

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what autism training his Department requires in respect of community care assessors who work with adults with autism; and what measures on training delivery he plans to include in his Department's statutory guidance for local authorities and NHS organisations to support implementation of its autism strategy. [23092]

Paul Burstow: There are no specific requirements currently on what form of autism training should be given by local authorities to community care assessors working with adults with autism. But the Government recognise the importance that staff carrying out assessment should have appropriate training, and this was addressed in the draft statutory guidance published for consultation earlier this year.

The national consultation on the statutory guidance closed on 22 October. We are currently in the process of analysing the response, which will inform the further development of the statutory guidance. Ministers will then consider a revised draft and take final decisions on content. We would not wish nor would it be appropriate to anticipate this process.

The Autism Act sets the publication date for the statutory guidance, which must be produced and published before 31 December 2010.

Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Clinical Strategy

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the oral answer to the hon. Member for Enfield, Southgate of 2 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 766-7, what assessment he has made of the compliance of the Barnet, Enfield and Haringey clinical strategy with his criteria for future healthcare models on GP commissioning institutions, future patient choice and proper reflection of the views of the public. [23140]

Mr Simon Burns: In May 2010, the Secretary of State set down four tests which proposals for national health service reconfiguration must meet.

It is the role of strategic health authorities to ensure local health commissioners are engaged with general practitioners (GPs), wider stakeholders, and the public to ensure the four tests are realised.

NHS London, through its assurance work on the Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Clinical Strategy, will seek to ensure that GP commissioning intentions, future patient choice and views of the public have been properly reflected.

Blood: Contamination

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what account he has taken of the levels of payments made to haemophiliac patients infected by contaminated blood and blood products in the Republic of Ireland in determining the level of payments to such patients; and if he will make a statement. [23100]

Anne Milton: I refer the hon. Member to my written ministerial statement on 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 30WS.

Care Homes

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people over 65 are full-time residents of care and residential homes in England. [23253]

Paul Burstow: Data on the number of adults aged 65 and over in receipt of local authority funded residential and nursing care is collected and published by the NHS

Information Centre for health and social care. These are broken down into whether the resident's type of stay is permanent or temporary.

As at 31 March 2010, 162,500 adults aged 65 and over were in receipt of permanent registered residential care funded fully or in part by councils with Adult Social Services Responsibilities.

Data on the number of adults aged 65 and over who fund their own care is not collected centrally.

CJD

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the outcomes were of his Department's workshop for patients, carers and health professionals on Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease held in April 2010; and if he will make a statement. [23099]

Anne Milton: The workshop was specifically for those affected by haemophilia and other bleeding disorders who may be at increased risk of variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD). It enabled patients, their families and health professionals to hear presentations from a panel of experts about the current state of knowledge of vCJD and the way in which the risk is managed, given the significant scientific uncertainty. Those attending were able to put questions directly to the experts. The Department funded filming of the workshop. A DVD was made available to the Haemophilia Society.

CJD: Research

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what research projects his Department has funded in each of the last three years into Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease; and what the outcomes of those projects were; [22953]

(2) in which companies engaged in research into Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease his Department holds shares. [22955]

Anne Milton: Over the last three years, the Department has funded research on variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD) in the following areas:

surveillance and prevalence of vCJD in the population;

infectivity of vCJD tissues, and aetiology and transmission studies;

improving the safety of blood;

decontamination of surgical instruments; and

development of therapeutics for prion infected patients.

The projects have built largely on previous studies, as part of the Department's overall strategy for addressing key policy questions relating to vCJD. This has enabled the implementation and continuing refinement of measures to reduce the risk of exposure of the population to vCJD.

Research to determine how many people may be carrying infection in the United Kingdom population has resulted in an estimate, based on a sample of around 10,000 tissue samples, giving a wide prevalence range of between 1:1,200 and 1:20,000. Efforts to refine this are under way.

Transmission of vCJD via blood has been proven and measures have been introduced to reduce the risk of contamination of blood and blood products. The potential for transmission of vCJD via instruments used in neurosurgery, some other surgery and dental procedures remains. Single-use instruments and decontamination guidelines have been introduced to reduce this risk.

The Department does not hold shares in any companies engaged in research into Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

Departmental Redundancy

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding to meet staff redundancy costs was identified in his Department's settlement letter in respect of the comprehensive spending review. [21562]

Mr Simon Burns: All pressures on Departments' budgets were taken into account as part of the spending review and settlements were allocated accordingly. The full costs of redundancies will be met from within the Department's spending review resource departmental expenditure limit settlement.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to improve drug treatment services. [22791]

Anne Milton: The Government are keen to set a new ambition for drug services that puts the ultimate goal of recovery at its heart.

High quality treatment and rehabilitation for those who misuse drugs are the most effective ways to address drug misuse and we want to support treatment by ensuring that individuals are able to access the full range of services to help them rebuild their lives.

The Government are currently formulating the new Drugs Strategy which will set out the future of drug treatment policy. This will be published in December.

As well as the Drug Strategy, we are also creating a public health service to take action to promote public health, and encourage behaviour change to help people live healthier lives and drug treatment will sit at the core of the public health service.

General Practitioners

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether GP commissioning consortia will be allowed to keep any budgetary underspends. [21990]

Mr Simon Burns: Under our proposals for general practitioner (GP) commissioning, practice level budgets will be allocated directly to consortia who will be responsible for managing these commissioning budgets—which will be distinct from GP practice income—and deciding how best to use resources to meet the health care needs of their patients. They will have a duty to ensure that expenditure does not exceed their allocated resources.

The NHS Commissioning Board will hold consortia to account for the stewardship of national health service resources and will have a significant role in managing financial risk.

The principles for managing underspends and overspends, including whether any planned and managed underspends may be carried over to future years to invest in services and whether any actual overspends will be deducted from the following year's allocation, will be agreed between the NHS Commissioning Board, the Department and HM Treasury.

NHS Supply Chain

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance his Department has issued to NHS Supply Chain on the new Part IX arrangements of the Drug Tariff; [22627]

(2) whether his Department places requirements on NHS Supply Chain to ensure contracts do not reduce *(a)* patient choice, *(b)* patient safety and *(c)* a patient's rights; [22628]

(3) what his Department's policy is on the *(a)* supply and *(b)* use of unbranded medical appliances in primary and secondary care; and if he will make a statement. [22629]

Mr Simon Burns: No guidance has been issued by the Department to the national health service or NHS Supply Chain (NHS SC) on the new Part IX arrangements of the Drug Tariff.

NHS SC sources products and services that the NHS may wish to procure so the Department does not place any such requirements on the NHS SC with regard to patient choice, safety and rights. NHS organisations (such as hospitals) can utilise NHS SC but are not mandated to procure goods or services from it. Any procurement carried out by the NHS would need to take account, among other things, of products needed to ensure patient choice, safety and rights. As part of these procurements secondary care will decide whether it wishes to source branded or unbranded medical appliances.

In primary care, Part IX of the Drug Tariff lists those products deemed suitable for prescribing by general practitioners and other appropriate prescribers. These products can then be dispensed by pharmacies, appliance contractors and, if applicable, dispensing doctors operating pharmaceutical services. The Drug Tariff lists both branded and unbranded appliances as appropriate.

NHS: Productivity

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on the McKinsey report on Achieving world class productivity in the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [21358]

Mr Simon Burns: The cost of the report was £46,000 (including VAT). The report commissioned by the previous Government was delivered on 18 March 2009.

Older People: Mental Health

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent assessment he has made of the level of psychological well-being of elderly people in residential care; [22985]

(2) whether he has made a recent assessment of the effects of companion animal ownership on the physical and psychological well-being of elderly people *(a)* in and *(b)* not in residential care; [22986]

(3) what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the psycho-social needs of elderly people in residential care; [22987]

(4) whether there are mechanisms in place to ensure that the psychological well-being of elderly people in residential care is given priority by local authorities. [22988]

Paul Burstow: The Department has not made any such assessments or had any such discussions with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. It is the responsibility of local authority social services departments to assess the needs of people living in their areas and to provide or arrange care which is appropriate to meet those needs, which will include their psychological well-being.

The Government appreciate that pets and companion animals can be a source of great comfort to their owners. We would encourage residential care providers to give careful consideration to granting requests from residents to take their pets into care homes.

Providers of residential care are free to decide, in the light of individual local circumstances, whether or not to permit residents to keep pets. The Government consider that this is the only practically workable approach.

Osteosarcoma: Drugs

Anna Soubry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on the decision by the National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence not to recommend the introduction of mifamurtide into the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [23056]

Paul Burstow: In the period 12 May 2010 to 5 November 2010, the Department received 116 written representations from hon. Members (including the hon. Lady's question), members of the public, a pharmaceutical company and patient groups about the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's (NICE) ongoing appraisal of mifamurtide (Mepact) for the treatment of osteosarcoma. NICE has not yet issued its final guidance to the national health service.

Queen Mary's Hospital Sidcup

Joseph Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure that the closure of Accident and Emergency and maternity departments at Queen Mary's hospital Sidcup does not prejudge the outcome of the reconfiguration programme, A Picture of Health. [23176]

Mr Simon Burns: NHS London, through its assurance work on the A Picture of Health reconfiguration scheme, is currently considering the report produced by the Clinical Forum established in outer South East London to lead a review of the proposals against the four tests for national health service reconfigurations as set down by the Secretary of State in May 2010.

The decision made by the trust to temporarily close Accident and Emergency and maternity units at Queen Mary's hospital Sidcup is based on clinical and patient safety. The temporary closures of these units will not impact on NHS London's assessment of the A Picture of Health reconfiguration proposals against the four tests for reconfiguration. Both units will reopen if this is found to be the best way forward for the local community.

Social Services

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what correspondence he received from *(a)* local authority leaders, *(b)* councillors with lead responsibility for social care and *(c)* local authority directors of social services on the effect of the outcome of the comprehensive spending review on social care provision before the announcement of the outcome of the review; and if he will place in the Library each such item of correspondence. [23261]

Paul Burstow: The Department received six such items of correspondence between 12 May and 20 October 2010. The decision to place these in the Library will be made following consultation with the correspondents.

Social Services: Vulnerable Adults

Ian Swales: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which local authorities in *(a)* the North East and *(b)* England were recorded as performing poorly in safeguarding adults in service inspection reports of the Care Quality Commission in the latest period for which figures are available. [23199]

Paul Burstow: The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is the independent regulator of health and adult social care services in England. It has carried out assessments of adult social care, which can include service inspections of local authorities.

The following information has been provided by CQC.

Inspections of adult social care look at safeguarding and up to two outcomes drawn from the Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework.

CQC carried out and published 35 inspections of adult social care during the period June 2009 to November 2010. Of these two local authorities have a poor rating for 'safeguarding' in the north-east region. These are:

Redcar and Cleveland; and

Gateshead.

Two further local authorities in England have a poor rating for 'safeguarding', these are:

The Wirral, (North West Region); and

Hounslow, (London Region).

Visual Impairment

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the recommendation of the NHS Information Centre on registration rates by local authorities of persons with *(a)* sight loss and *(b)* visual impairment; [23470]

(2) whether he plans to require local authorities to publish the number of residents with *(a)* new and *(b)* existing visual impairment or sight loss; [23471]

(3) what recent discussions he has had with local authorities on maintaining registers of people with visual impairment or sight loss; and if he will make a statement. [23472]

Paul Burstow: Under Section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948 local authorities are required to compile and maintain classified Registers. Information on the numbers of people who fall within the scope of this act are recorded on the local authority registers since 2005 by the NHS Information Centre and SSDA902 is the statistical return for registration of blind persons and partially sighted persons.

Officials have had a number of discussions with voluntary sector partners on the quality of data collection on registered blind and partially-sighted people. In 2008 the then Minister for Care Services commissioned the NHS Information Centre to take forward a review with the aim of improving the quality of the data collected. Officials are addressing the recommendations of the NHS IC report and will discuss these with external partners, including the Royal National Institute of Blind People and local authorities, to agree the way forward.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Onshore Wind Turbines

18. **Mr Kennedy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the prospects for the production and construction of UK onshore wind turbines; and if he will make a statement. [23162]

Charles Hendry: The Government are committed to a substantial increase in renewable energy which will require a large contribution from offshore wind; this is also a vital economic and employment opportunity for the UK. This is why my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister recently announced that we are committing up to £60 million to support offshore wind manufacturing infrastructure at port sites in England.

Carbon Budgets

19. **Nicky Morgan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the potential effects of the outcomes of the comprehensive spending review on the ability of the Government to meet its carbon budgets; and if he will make a statement. [23163]

Gregory Barker: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Croydon South (Richard Ottaway) today.

Feed-In Tariffs

20. **Julian Sturdy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has for the future of feed-in tariffs for small-scale renewables; and if he will make a statement. [23164]

Gregory Barker: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Dover (Charlie Elphicke) today.

New Nuclear Power Stations

21. **Neil Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to facilitate new nuclear power stations without public subsidy. [23165]

Charles Hendry: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Pendle (Andrew Stephenson) earlier today.

Coal Miners: Compensation Settlements

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many eligible *(a)* current and *(b)* former coal miners have not yet received a final compensation settlement for industrial disease. [23153]

Charles Hendry: DECC is only liable in relation to former British Coal employees. The two main compensation schemes for former miners involving a total of c.760,000 claims are largely complete.

At 31 October 2010 there were six outstanding scheme claims for vibration white finger. There were 102 active claims remaining in the chronic obstructive pulmonary disease scheme of which 21 have yet to receive an offer, but should do so by the end of the year.

Departmental Lobbying

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent from the public purse on influencing public policy through *(a)* employing external (i) public affairs companies, (ii) strategic consultancies and (iii) corporate communications firms, *(b)* external marketing and *(c)* other activities in each year since its inception. [23766]

Gregory Barker: The Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies have not spent any money on these activities/firms.

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which of his Department's non-departmental public bodies have undertaken activities to influence public policy for which they engaged *(a)* public affairs and *(b)* public relations consultants in each year since its inception; and at what monetary cost in each such year. [23787]

Gregory Barker: None of the Department's non-departmental public bodies have engaged public affairs or public relations consultants to influence public policy.

Radioactive Waste

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management has made on finding a suitable site for disposal of radioactive waste. [23473]

Charles Hendry: The Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) does not have a role in identifying possible sites for disposal of radioactive waste.

Government are undertaking a stepwise process for implementing geological disposal of higher activity radioactive waste, as set out in the 2008 White Paper "Managing Radioactive Waste Safely: A Framework for Implementation of Geological Disposal". CoRWM's primary task is to provide independent scrutiny and advice on the Government's and Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's proposals, plans and programmes to deliver geological disposal, together with robust interim storage.

Government's process to site a geological disposal facility is based on voluntarism and partnership with local communities with the first stage being local communities 'expressing an interest' in entering discussions with Government about the siting process.

To date, three 'expressions of interest' have been received (Copeland borough council, Cumbria county council and Allerdale borough council) for the areas of Copeland and Allerdale. The authorities and local stakeholders are working together in partnership to consider whether to move to the next stage of the process and further information is available on their website at:

www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk

The option to express an interest remains open and DECC officials are available to answer questions or advise any community who wishes to seek further information.

Renewable Energy

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what annual targets he has set under the Climate Change Act 2009 to reach near 30 per cent. generation of energy from renewables by 2020. [23259]

Gregory Barker: The renewable energy directive 2009 sets the UK a legally binding target to ensure that 15% of our energy comes from renewable sources by 2020. The directive does not set annual targets; however, the first interim milestone is to achieve an average of 4% over 2011 and 2012.

TREASURY

Bank Services

Jo Swinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions his Department has had with UK banks on implementing the recommendations of the 2007 Independent Review of the Banking Code on information and advice to customers abroad on procedures and alternative methods of payment should their cards be blocked; and if he will make a statement. [23381]

Mr Hoban: The 2007 review of the voluntary Banking Code was implemented by the then Banking Code Standards Board (BCSB). The BCSB took forward a recommendation that banks that block payment cards used abroad should tell their customers that their cards may be blocked, so that customers can consider alternative methods of payment.

As part of the information process, an advice guide on paying by card for those going abroad on holiday or business is published by the UK Cards Association. The guide is accessible on the association's web site.

Civil Servants: Pensions

Jim Shannon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he had with representatives of civil servants on the rate of civil service pension scheme benefits for 2010-11; what steps he took to inform civil servants of the rate of benefits which would apply in 2010-11; what representations he has received on this matter from civil servants in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [20153]

Mr Maude: I am replying as policy for the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme rests with the Cabinet Office.

I have had no discussions with representatives of civil servants on the rate of the civil service scheme pension benefits for 2010-11. Pension benefits for civil servants are set by the rules of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme.

Pension arrangements for members of the Northern Ireland civil service are not covered by the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme and are a matter for the Northern Ireland Assembly.

Debts: Developing Countries

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the provisions of the Debt Relief (Developing Countries) Act 2010. [23255]

Mr Hoban: The Debt Relief (Developing Countries) Bill received Royal Assent on 8 April 2010 and the Act came into force on 8 June 2010. The legislation means that UK courts of law can no longer be used to pursue excessive claims against some of the poorest countries on their historic debts, ensuring that resources are available to tackle poverty. The sunset clause attached to this legislation means that the law will expire on 7 June 2011. By March 2011, the Government will review whether or not to extend the Act.

Minimum Wage

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of the sum identified as national minimum wage underpayments to employees in 2009-10 has now been paid. [23062]

Danny Alexander: Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs does not keep separate statistics on the amount of arrears paid or not paid to workers.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effects of prevailing labour market conditions on the workload of national minimum wage compliance officers. [23063]

Danny Alexander: A key indicator of the effects of this change is the number of complaints received about non-payment of national minimum wage (NMW). Since April 2009, the level of complaints from workers and former workers about non-payment has remained steady. Complaints received from third parties about potential non-payment of NMW have declined.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average waiting time for consideration of a complaint of payment of wages below the rate of the national minimum wage was in the HM Revenue and Customs compliance team in *(a)* Aberdeen, *(b)* Ashton, *(c)* Belfast, *(d)* Birmingham, *(e)* Cambridge, *(f)* Cardiff, *(g)* East Kilbride, *(h)* Exeter, *(i)* Maidstone, *(j)* Teesside, *(k)* Portsmouth, *(l)* Romford, *(m)* Sheffield, *(n)* Ashton, *(o)* Shipley, *(p)* Wigan and *(q)* Leicester in the latest period for which figures are available. [23064]

Danny Alexander: HMRC records the average elapsed time in working days from the date of registration of a complaint from a worker about non-payment of minimum wage to the date of closure of a case. The following table shows the average elapsed time, in working days, for complaint cases closed by the teams specified for the period April 2010 to the end of October 2010.

Team	*Average elapsed time (working days)*
Belfast	69.09
Birmingham	74.64
Cambridge	90.12
Cardiff	83.24
Exeter	79.84
Leicester	96.17
Maidstone	85.34
Portsmouth	99.70
Romford	80.58
Scotland (Aberdeen and East Kilbride)	89.75
Sheffield	82.35
Shipley	87.67
Stockport (Ashton)	86.37
Teesside	83.25
Wigan	86.69

HMRC strives for continual improvement and is piloting new ways of responding to complaints from workers. This includes a triage approach with possible approaches being by telephone, letter or a face to face visit to the employer.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of complaints to his Department on payment of wages below the national minimum wage resulted in a repayment of arrears to the employee in the latest period for which figures are available. [23066]

Danny Alexander: For the period from 1 April 2010 to 31 October 2010, 44% of complaints from workers and third parties about the non-payment of national minimum wage (NMW) resulted in the identification of arrears of wages as a result of non-payment of the NMW.

HMRC does not keep separate statistics on the amount of arrears paid or not paid to workers.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff HM Revenue and Customs employs in its national minimum wage regional compliance team in *(a)* Aberdeen, *(b)* Ashton, *(c)* Belfast, *(d)* Birmingham, *(e)* Cambridge, *(f)* Cardiff, *(g)* East Kilbride, *(h)* Exeter, *(i)* Maidstone, *(j)* Teesside, *(k)* Portsmouth, *(l)* Romford, *(m)* Sheffield, *(n)* Ashton, *(o)* Shipley, *(p)* Wigan and *(q)* Leicester; and how many staff he expects to be in each such team in (i) 2011 and (ii) 2012. [23067]

Danny Alexander: Current staff in post figures for the specified regional compliance teams are in the following table.

2010-11

Team	Number
Belfast	7
Birmingham	8
Cambridge	7
Cardiff	8
Colchester	4
Exeter	9
Leicester	6
Maidstone	7
Oxford	6
Portsmouth	6
Romford	9
Scotland (Aberdeen and East Kilbride)	12
Sheffield	6
Shipley	6
Stockport (Ashton)	7
Teesside	9
Wigan	7

No estimate of future staff numbers is available as HMRC is currently considering future resource requirements for 2011-12 and beyond, in the context of the comprehensive spending review.

PAYE: East Ayrshire

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many people in Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituency were found to have been *(a)* overpaid and *(b)* underpaid as a result of errors in the PAYE system in the most recent reconciliation process; [22956]

(2) if he will estimate the average repayment requested from a person resident in Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituency in respect of the recent reconciliation of PAYE liabilities. [22957]

Danny Alexander: The information requested is available only at disproportionate cost, as HMRC does not hold these data in relation to MPs' constituencies.

Public Bodies: Land

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information his Department holds on land directly owned by *(a)* Government Departments and their agencies and *(b)* other public bodies. [22961]

Mr Maude: I have been asked to reply.

The Government's central property database, e-PIMS, currently records 4,160 land holdings for central Government Departments and their arm's length bodies, of which 4,010 are marked as freehold. e-PIMS does not hold comprehensive information on other public bodies.

Public Expenditure

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of *(a)* each impact assessment evaluated on the comprehensive spending review and *(b)* each dataset used for modelling impacts. [21978]

Danny Alexander: The spending review on 20 October set out spending plans to 2014-15. Alongside this were published a 'Distributional Impact Analysis', with accompanying data sources, and the 'Overview of the Impact of the Spending Review on Equalities'. These can all be found on the HM Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/spend_sr2010_documents.htm

It will be the responsibility of Departments to ensure that equality issues are further considered when assessing options for spending reductions.

Ann McKechin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what Barnett consequentials he expects there to be from his Department's grants for business scheme; and if he will make a statement. [23268]

Danny Alexander: The devolved Administrations will have received Barnett consequentials on all changes to BIS's budget in line with the arrangements set out in the statement of funding policy.

The Barnett formula is applied at departmental level rather than at individual programme level. Therefore it is not possible to quantify the amount of Barnett consequentials arising from this programme. Since the grants for business scheme is an England-only programme, it will be a matter for the devolved Administrations to decide whether to operate similar programmes in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Public Sector: Employment

Ian Lavery: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has had discussions with ministerial colleagues on the likely effects on *(a)* Wansbeck constituency, *(b)* Northumberland and *(c)* the UK of the change in the number of public sector jobs as a result of the implementations of the proposals in the comprehensive spending review. [22924]

Danny Alexander: Treasury Ministers have regular discussions with colleagues as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) released, as part of its Budget forecasts on 22 June 2010, projections for whole economy employment to 2015-16.

Further information on its employment forecast, including projections for general government employment, was released on 30 June 2010 in its document "OBR forecast: Employment", which can be found on the following webpage:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/publications.html

A revised forecast will be released on 29 November 2010.

The OBR has not published forecasts on a sub-national level.

Stocks and Shares: Food

Bill Esterson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward regulatory proposals to *(a)* limit commodity speculation by hedge funds and banks and *(b)* provide transparent clearing house arrangements for trading on food derivatives. [23262]

Mr Hoban: The Government are very aware of the importance of commodities markets to countries around the globe. We believe in particular that improved transparency and data availability is important to inform policy making in this area and to help regulators police markets effectively. We support initiatives to introduce clearing obligations, where appropriate, on commodity and other derivatives, and we are working with European partners to achieve this.

VAT: Vocational Training

Mr Mark Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to review the imposition of value added tax on professional pilot training for the purposes of increasing the number of UK nationals undertaking such training; and if he will make a statement. [22770]

Danny Alexander: Education and vocational training are exempt from VAT when supplied by eligible bodies, such as schools, colleges, universities, local authorities and non-profit making organisations, or when provided under a Government-approved training scheme. All other supplies of education and vocational training are liable to VAT.

Under EU law, we cannot extend the scope of this exemption, and there are therefore no plans to review the current treatment.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Advertising: Television

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has any plans to abolish price controls of ITV television advertising through contracts rights renewal . [23328]

Mr Davey: The Contract Rights Renewal undertakings were provided in 2003 as a condition of clearing the merger between Carlton Communications and Granada to form ITV plc. They were provided to address an anti-competitive outcome resulting from the increased market power the merged entity would be able to exert. Responsibility for taking determinative decisions about the continued need for these undertakings rests with the Competition Commission.

In May 2009, the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) advised the Competition Commission to undertake a formal review of whether the undertakings remained appropriate. The Competition Commission's provisional decision was published in September 2009. Its final report was published on 12 May 2010 following further rounds of substantive engagement on the matter with ITV. The report is available on the Competition Commission website at:

www.competitioncommission.org.uk/inquiries/ref2009/itv/pdf/final_report.pdf

The report provides a detailed examination of all relevant arguments as well as of the alternative mechanisms latterly put forward by ITV. It explains in full the Competition Commission's decision that the undertakings should remain in place subject to certain variations to the definition of ITV1.

The House of Lords Select Committee on Communications is undertaking an inquiry into the regulation of television advertising. This includes consideration of the arguments around the Contract Rights Renewal undertakings applicable to ITV. I expect the inquiry to receive views from a wide range of interested parties including regulators and market participants.

The Government will, of course, give careful consideration to the Committee's findings.

Broadband: Expenditure

Rory Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much has been spent from the public purse on extending broadband availability since 1997. [22796]

Mr Vaizey: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, and its predecessor Departments have directly spent around £47 million on enabling broadband internet access since 1997. This excludes spending by the Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies. The funding went towards a number of projects covering availability and take-up.

The breakdown of the spending is as follows:

UK Broadband Fund: £30 million for projects to encourage broadband roll out in the regions across the UK from 2002-05

Broadband Task Force: £86,000 from 2004-05

Broadband Aggregation: £17 million from 2003-05

Community Broadband Network: Part funding of £30,000 in 2004

Broadband Awareness Portal Project: £40,000 in 2004-05

Independent Networks Association set up: £150,000 in 2009-10.

The Government have also now committed up to £530 million between now and 2015 to facilitate the delivery of universal broadband and stimulate private sector investment to deliver the best super-fast broadband network in Europe by 2015.

Broadband: Wirral

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much of the funding for broadband announced in the comprehensive spending review will be spent on programmes in Wirral West constituency. [23469]

Mr Vaizey: £530 million of funding to support broadband rollout is available up to 2015. However, to date no specific allocation of funds has been made for programmes in Wirral West constituency, or any other constituency.

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effects on changes to the Building Schools for the Future programme on small firms in the construction sector; what recent representations he has received on the topic; and if he will make a statement. [14141]

Mr Gibb: I have been asked to reply.

The Secretary of State considered wide-ranging advice from officials on the decision on the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme, including on the construction industry.

On 5 July, alongside his announcement on BSF, the Secretary of State for Education announced a review of all areas of the Department for Education's capital spending. The report of the review is due by the end of the calendar year.

Business: Government Assistance

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to increase the level of investment and working capital available to businesses; and if he will make a statement. [23807]

Mr Prisk: The coalition Government have articulated their ambition to ensure the flow of credit to viable SMEs and are committed to ensuring a stable business environment which gives businesses the confidence to invest and makes the UK an easy place to do business.

The Government have published their response to the consultation on business finance issues, 'Financing a private sector recovery'. It is available at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/businessfinance

There are various measures in place to support access to finance for businesses and provide the capital they need for investment and growth. The Government aim to continue to support and improve the diversity of sources and access to finance for SMEs and businesses through:

> "A four-year extension to the Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG) making around £2 billion available to viable small companies without a credit history or lacking sufficient collateral.
>
> A commitment to the Enterprise Capital Fund programme of £200 million to support small businesses with the highest growth potential, providing more than £300 million of venture capital investment into the equity gap after both Government and private sector funding are combined.
>
> Welcoming the banks' announcement of a new £1.5 billion Business Growth Fund, to provide equity funding of between £2 million and £10 million for small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) with strong growth potential."

The Government will also work with the British Bankers' Association's Business Finance Taskforce and the banks on a range of commitments set out in their response to the Green Paper and which will assist small businesses with access to finance issues.

Finally, the Government continue to monitor performance against the legally binding lending commitments agreed with the Royal Bank of Scotland Group and Lloyds Banking Group. These will deliver £50 billion and £44 billion of business lending this year respectively, providing businesses with capital for investment and growth.

Copyright: Internet

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the (i) level of online copyright infringement in the UK and (ii) potential effect on such infringement of the provisions of the Digital Economy Act 2010. [23366]

Mr Vaizey: The need for a robust independent assessment of the level of online copyright infringement is recognised by the Government. Under the Digital Economy Act (DEA), Ofcom is required to establish a base level of online infringement of copyright and to track the impact of DEA online copyright provisions. Ofcom are currently refining the methodology to be used so that they are in a position to begin measuring the level of infringement from when the initial obligations code comes into effect at the beginning of April 2011.

Debts: Advisory Services

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the Office of Fair Trading plans to consult on its revised debt management guidance in the light of the outcome of its recent compliance review. [23180]

Mr Davey: I can confirm that the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) plans to publish a draft revised version of the debt management guidance for consultation in line with HM Government's code of practice on consultation.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the oral evidence taken by the Business, Innovation and Skills Committee on 26 October 2010, Q1, what definition of real activity he uses. [23017]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 9 November 2010]:* In the context of contributing to deficit reduction, my Department has sought to achieve savings through a series of radical reforms and by taking a tougher approach to efficiency. Within a smaller spending envelope, this is leading to reductions in real activity, i.e. lower programme spend in particular areas—such as spend previously provided via the RDAs.

Departmental Regulation

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what regulations his Department plans to *(a)* repeal and *(b)* amend in the next five years. [23080]

Mr Prisk: At present, it is too early to project how many regulations will be removed or amended over the course of the next five years.

However, as a first step, the Government initiated a pipeline review of legislation inherited from the previous Administration. This is now well advanced, and, as part of this, this Department will repeal the Small Business Credit Adjudicator measure, saving BIS some £3 million, and amend the Ban on Unsolicited Credit Card Cheques measure to look for alternative approaches to regulation. In addition, the Right to Request Time to Train measure will be reduced in scope with small firms with 49 or fewer employees being exempted, producing savings to business of some £270 million per annum.

The Government have also initiated the Your Freedom programme, and a number of ideas are being taken forward as a result. In addition, BIS has contributed two powers of entry for repeal under the Home Office

Your Freedom Bill, namely Regulations (Gas Appliances (Safety) Regulations 1995 S.I. 1995/1629) regulation 24-(6); and Powers of entry under the Distribution of German Enemy Property Order 1950.

The Budget announced a review of employment laws, and further reviews are planned. Among other things, these reviews will consider how the burden of regulation may be reduced. Such savings may be fed into the One-in, One-out (OIOO) process as OUTs. Generally, this Department will continue to work to identify further potential OUTs for OIOO.

The Government's regulatory Forward Programme is due to be published later this year which will provide details of all forthcoming regulation.

Green Investment Bank

Steve McCabe: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to ensure private sector investment in the proposed Green Investment Bank. [23148]

Mr Prisk: We are committed to working with the private sector to establish a Green Investment Bank that is effective in mobilising additional private sector investment into green infrastructure projects.

It will, therefore, be run on an independent and commercial basis, employing appropriate private sector skills and expertise and free from ministerial interference in its day-to-day operations.

Furthermore, we will undertake further design and testing to ensure it is effective in mobilising additional private sector investment into green infrastructure projects.

Higher Education: Finance

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the likely effect of his proposed changes to higher education funding on the viability of individual higher education institutions. [23276]

Mr Willetts: Our reforms to higher education will shift the balance of public funds for teaching from direct grant to institutions to funding that follows the choices made by individual students. This will provide strong incentives for institutions to focus on providing high quality teaching as efficiently as possible. Over time, popular and successful institutions will be able to grow and we expect new providers to enter the sector providing they can offer teaching to the high standards students will expect. HEFCE will monitor the financial health and sustainability of institutions to protect the public investment in higher education. But HEIs are autonomous institutions and, if a university mismanages its affairs, we cannot offer a guarantee of protection.

Dr Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of funding for universities he expects to be drawn from the proceeds of tuition fees in each of the next three years. [23312]

Mr Willetts: We have not yet announced the level of public funding for universities for 2011-12 and subsequent years. We cannot therefore estimate the proportion of overall university income which will come from fees.

Dr Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding from the public purse he plans to allocate to universities in each of the next three years. [23313]

Mr Willetts: In the comprehensive spending review on 20 October 2010 it was announced that the higher education budget in England, excluding research, would fall from £7.1 billion to £4.2 billion in 2014-15. In addition it was announced that the ring-fenced science budget would be held in cash terms at £4.6 billion per year until 2014-15. Funding allocations for each year will be announced in due course.

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the effect on the labour market of his proposed changes to higher education funding. [23474]

Mr Willetts: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and I have discussed the proposed changes to higher education funding and student finance with all of our Cabinet colleagues and will continue to do so over the coming months.

Innovation

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his proposed innovation centres will be required to take on *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time apprentices. [23252]

Mr Hayes: BTEC qualifications in vehicle technology for the motorsports industry will continue to be available from Edexcel. The two qualifications referred to in this question will continue until they are replaced by Edexcel with more flexible, unit-based qualifications by the end of this year.

It is the responsibility of sector skills councils, in this case SEMTA, and other representative bodies to determine the content of apprenticeship frameworks. We expect sector skills councils to work with employers to ensure that the range and content of apprenticeship frameworks fully meets the skills needs of their respective industries. This allows the market to determine the content of apprenticeship frameworks and keeps apprenticeships focused on meeting business skills needs.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what measures he will use to assess the performance of his Department's proposed innovation centres. [23269]

Mr Hayes: Funding for technology and innovation centres will be provided in the context of the Technology Strategy Board's overall programme of work and its objectives for specific technology areas. The success and contribution of individual centres will therefore be measured in the context of this overall objective.

We will also monitor more specific measures including their ability to leverage private sector contract funding; attract grant funding from EU and national research programmes; the number of businesses they support and create; and the nature and scale of their interactions with the knowledge base.

Innovation: Malvern

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his decision is on the proposal from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire for a science and innovation centre in Malvern. [22564]

Mr Willetts: No decisions have been made. There are a number of areas of opportunity and the Technology Strategy Board will have to consider each of these cases on its merits and prioritise investments on those opportunities which offer the greatest scope for boosting UK growth and productivity on the basis of business and academic strength.

Local Enterprise Partnerships

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills for what reason bids for local enterprise partnerships require approval by the Secretary of State. [23365]

Mr Prisk: Local enterprise partnership proposals need to meet the Government's expectations regarding support from business, economic geography, local authority support, added value and ambition, and board membership. More detail on these expectations are set out in the White Paper on Local Growth.

The Government will enter into discussions with partnerships which meet these expectations about delivering the economic vision for their area. Partnerships which meet these expectations will also be likely to be in a good position to make credible bids to the Regional Growth Fund.

Local Enterprise Partnerships: Devon

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills for what reason his Department did not proceed with the bid for a local enterprise partnership submitted by Torbay, Devon and Plymouth local authorities. [23364]

Mr Prisk: Local enterprise partnership proposals were considered against the Government's expectations regarding support from business, economic geography, local authority support, added value and ambition; the details of which are set out in the White Paper on Local Growth.

Those partnerships, which were not asked to progress to form their boards, were considered as not having met one or more of these expectations. Discussions with local representatives are continuing.

Mass Media

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what plans he has to encourage plurality and diversity in the media; [22994]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of levels of concentration of media ownership; and if he will make a statement. [22996]

Mr Vaizey: The Government believe it is important for the media to reflect different viewpoints at the national level and to safeguard democratic debate. Plurality and diversity in the media market are encouraged by promoting effective competition in relevant markets and regulating mergers to ensure they do not result in a loss of such competition. Statutory rules enforced by Ofcom separately place absolute restrictions on cross media ownership and are designed to prevent too great a concentration of media power.

Where a merger is not prohibited altogether by these rules, media mergers are subject to the same competition based regulation by the independent competition authorities as all other mergers. Exceptionally, the Secretary of State for Business Innovation and Skills may intervene in a media merger to address concerns about the need to maintain plurality in media ownership.

The statutory media ownership rules were reviewed by Ofcom last year. The Government agreed with Ofcom's recommendations. Therefore no changes will be made to the national cross-media ownership rules. However, the Government intend to bring forward legislation to remove the local cross-media ownership rules.

Minimum Wage

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people are paid at the rate of the national minimum wage in each constituency. [22369]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many people are paid at the rate of the national minimum wage in each constituency. (22369)

Estimates for the number of jobs paid at the national minimum wage are not available from the Office for National Statistics. Estimates for the number of employee jobs paid below the national minimum wage are available, but only for all employee jobs by Government Office Region, which is the lowest geographical breakdown published by ONS. I attach a table showing the number of all employee jobs earning less than the national minimum wage by Government Office Region in April 2009, the latest period for which figures are available.

A guide to measuring low pay and associated articles can be found on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=5837

Estimates of jobs paid below the National Minimum Wage by Government Office Region in April 2009

	2009	
Government Office Region	*Thousand*	*Percentage*
North East	**13	**1.3
North West	*30	*1.1
Yorks and Humber	*22	*1.0
East Midlands	*19	*1.1
West Midlands	*22	*1.0
Eastern	*18	*0.8
London	*19	*0.5
South East	*31	*0.9
South West	*22	*1.0

Estimates of jobs paid below the National Minimum Wage by Government Office Region in April 2009

	2009	
Government Office Region	*Thousand*	*Percentage*
Wales	**12	**1.1
Scotland	**17	**0.7
Northern Ireland	**16	**2.2

Guide to Quality:
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of a figure, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV – for example, for an average of 200 with a CV of 5%, we would expect the population average to be within the range 180 to220.
Key:
* CV>5% and <=10%
** CV>10% and <=20%
Source:
Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), Office for National Statistics, 2009

Motor Vehicles: Qualifications

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what assessment he has made of the effects on high performance engineering and the motorsport industry of the decision by Edexcel to withdraw as an awarding body for the BTEC First Diploma and BTEC National Award in Vehicle Technology (Motorsport) qualifications; [23508]

(2) whether he plans to take steps to ensure that the BTEC First Diploma and BTEC National Award in Vehicle Technology (Motorsport) qualifications form part of the apprenticeship and advanced apprenticeship frameworks in motorsport. [23509]

Mr Hayes: BTEC qualifications in Vehicle Technology for the motorsports industry will continue to be available from Edexcel. The two qualifications referred to in this question will continue until they are replaced by Edexcel with more flexible, unit-based qualifications by the end of this year.

It is the responsibility of sector skills councils, in this case SEMTA, and other representative bodies to determine the content of apprenticeship frameworks. We expect sector skills councils to work with employers to ensure that the range and content of apprenticeship frameworks fully meets the skills needs of their respective industries. This allows the market to determine the content of apprenticeship frameworks and keeps apprenticeships focused on meeting business skills needs.

Regional Growth Fund

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the likely geographical distribution of successful applications to the Regional Growth Fund; and if he will make a statement. [22640]

Mr Prisk: The objectives and criteria for the Regional Growth Fund are set out in the Local Growth White Paper 'Local growth: realising every place's potential', which was published on 28 October and introduced to Parliament by an oral statement given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills made on that day, *Official Report*, column 408.

The Regional Growth Fund is a challenge fund and not ring-fenced or pre-allocated in any way to keep it flexible and responsive to the economic development needs of the country. All areas of England are eligible to bid for the Regional Growth Fund. However, one of the main objectives of the Regional Growth Fund is to strengthen the private sector in areas currently over-reliant on the public sector. Clearly those areas without such over-reliance will therefore have a weaker case.

Decisions on successful proposals will be based on recommendations by the independent advisory panel, chaired by my noble Friend Lord Heseltine.

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills in what circumstances a bid for funds from the Regional Growth Fund would be considered as meeting the exceptional criteria for funding of over £2 million. [22966]

Mr Prisk: The Regional Growth Fund is open to bids from the private sector and public private partnerships subject to a minimum bid threshold for applications of £1 million. There are no separate criteria for bids over £2 million.

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what advice his Department has issued to small and medium-sized enterprises seeking to make pooled bids for funds from the Regional Growth Fund. [22967]

Mr Prisk: Guidance for all bidders for funds from the Regional Growth Fund is available from the Regional Growth Fund website, which can be accessed via the BIS website at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/regional-economic-development/regional-growth-fund

The website provides access to the application form and guidance, and an e-mail address and a series of local telephone numbers from where further information about the fund can be sought and questions answered. This Department is also organising a number of events across the country where potential bidders can get advice on the fund and on making quality bids.

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what arrangements he has put in place for *(a)* receiving and *(b)* evaluating pooled bids from small and medium-sized enterprises for funds from the Regional Growth Fund. [22968]

Mr Prisk: All bids to the Regional Growth Fund should be sent to BIS either by post (details on the Regional Growth Fund website):

http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/regional-economic-development/regional-growth-fund

or by e-mail:

growthfund@bis.gsi.gov.uk

in time for the closing date of each bidding round.

On receipt, bids will be registered and evaluated by a cross-departmental team of economists and appraisers, ahead of being put to the independent advisory panel, chaired by my noble Friend Lord Heseltine. Final decisions on which bids to support will be taken by Ministers based on advice from the advisory panel.

The same appraisal system applies to stand alone project bids and packages of bids presented collectively, regardless of their size.

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the likely number of small and medium-sized enterprises that will apply for funds from the Regional Growth Fund in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12. [22969]

Mr Prisk: The Regional Growth Fund is new and while we anticipate several hundred applications from a wide variety of bidders, no estimation has been made of the likely number of bids to generate from small and medium-sized enterprises.

The £1 million minimum bidding threshold allows for flexibility and encourages innovative proposals. We expect some bids will comprise packages of smaller projects from SMEs which collectively make a compelling strategic proposal. In future bidding rounds, proposals will also be accepted for strategic investment programmes, which allow managed onward investment for growth of potential businesses.

Royal Mail

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the likely implications for the public purse of *(a)* his proposed part-sale of Royal Mail and *(b)* the proposed treatment of Royal Mail pension fund liabilities in the (i) short-term and (ii) long-term. [23256]

Mr Davey: The reforms we are proposing are there to secure the universal postal service, which Richard Hooper identified in his report as being under threat. It is too early to speculate on the likely proceeds that we will receive from the sale of Royal Mail. It will depend on the market value of the company at the time of sale, and the stake that we decide to sell in the first instance.

We intend to transfer the historic liabilities of the Royal Mail Pension Plan (RMPP) into a new pay-as-you-go public service scheme. As at March 2010 the RMPP had a deficit on an ongoing funding basis of £8.4 billion. In practice pensions will be paid as they fall due. On transfer, we expect payments of around £1 billion per annum will be required. We estimate payments will fall below £1 billion per annum after around 25 years.

Students: Fees and Charges

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of students entering higher education paid their fees before the end of their course in the latest period for which figures are available. [22766]

Mr Willetts: The latest available information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) shows in the 2008-09 academic year, 30% of full-time English domiciled entrants and 52% of part-time English domiciled entrants to English higher education institutions paid their tuition fees fully from their own funds in the first year of their course. Figures on whether entrants pay their fees from their own funds for the full duration of their course are not available. Figures for the 2009-10 academic year will be available in January 2011.

These figures include students who were not eligible for financial support for the cost of their tuition fees from the Student Loans Company. For example, figures include students on postgraduate courses, other courses not eligible for student support, or students who already hold an equivalent level qualification who are not eligible for tuition fee loans for a second undergraduate course.

Students: Finance

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the annual average cost of tuition for an undergraduate student at a state-funded university was in the latest period for which figures are available; and what proportion of the cost of such tuition was funded by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the student. [23412]

Mr Willetts: Government fund the costs of higher education tuition through grants made by the Higher Education Funding Council for England and through the provision of subsidised fee loans to students. The average annual costs of a undergraduate student is around £7,000 per year, made up of around £4,000 in teaching grant and £3,000 in student fees.

Students: Loans

Ben Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the future of the student loan book. [23117]

Mr Willetts: At Budget 2010 and spending review 2010 the Government announced their intention to examine the potential for a sale of the Student Loan Portfolio.

This work programme, led by the Shareholder Executive, is currently ongoing. The Government will make a decision on how and whether to proceed with a sale by Budget 2011.

Written Answers to Questions

Friday 12 November 2010

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Broadband: Ealing

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of the funding proposed to be allocated to broadband programmes in the comprehensive spending review will be spent on programmes based in Ealing Southall constituency. [23575]

Mr Vaizey: £530 million of funding to support broadband rollout is available up to 2015. However, to date no specific allocation of funds has been made for programmes in Ealing Southall constituency, or any other constituency.

Business: Regulation

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to reduce the regulatory burden on small businesses. [23805]

Mr Prisk: A number of steps are being taken:

This month the Prime Minister asked Lord Young to look at what this Government can do to make life easier for small businesses. This will include examining ways in which the Government can remove barriers to growth and remove or minimise regulatory and bureaucratic burdens on business.

Recently, the Better Regulation Executive, published a report 'Lightening the Load' which highlights the cumulative regulatory burden affecting the smallest businesses—the findings will feed into Lord Young's review.

The BRE is actively working with Departments to identify regulation which is overly burdensome, particularly on small businesses, and support policy makers in using non-regulatory approaches.

The BRE is also undertaking a series of regional visits, speaking to SMEs all over the country to further identify ways to improve the business environment.

In September, the Government introduced the One-in, One-out rule—a significant step in stemming the flow of regulation and will focus Whitehall's attention on finding alternatives to regulation.

Cement: EU Action

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the likely effects on the economic performance of the UK cement industry of the European Commission's proposal for a hybrid clinker benchmark for Phase III of the European Union Emissions Trading scheme. [23842]

Mr Prisk: The European Commission's proposal for the free allocation rules for Phase III of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) was sent to member states on 22 October. My officials, along with officials from the Department for Energy and Climate Change, are in the process of analysing the proposal in detail in order to assess its impact, including economic effects. I have met with representatives from the UK cement sector in order to discuss the proposal and ensure that we have a full understanding of the implications of the proposed approach. Officials from both departments will be having discussions with the European Commission on this issue.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the likely effects on competition in the European cement industry of the European Commission's proposal for a hybrid clinker benchmark for Phase III of the European Union Emissions Trading scheme. [23843]

Mr Prisk: The European Commission's proposal for the free allocation rules for Phase III of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) was sent to member states on 22 October. My officials, along with officials from the Department for Energy and Climate Change, are in the process of analysing the proposal in detail in order to assess its impact on UK industry, including competitiveness issues. I have met with representatives from the UK cement sector in order to discuss the proposal and ensure that we have a full understanding of the implications of the proposed approach. Officials from both Departments will also be having discussions with the European Commission on this issue.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the likely financial effects on the UK cement industry of the European Commission's proposal for a hybrid clinker benchmark for Phase III of the European Union Emissions Trading Scheme. [23845]

Mr Prisk: The European Commission's proposal for the free allocation rules for Phase III of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) was sent to member states on 22 October. My officials, along with officials from the Department for Energy and Climate Change, are in the process of analysing the proposal in detail in order to assess its impact on UK industry, including financial effects. I have met with representatives from the UK cement sector in order to discuss the proposal and ensure that we have a full understanding of the implications of the proposed approach. Officials from both Departments will also be having discussions with the European Commission on this issue.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* discussions his Department has had with representatives of cement producers who do not manufacture cement in the UK on the proposed hybrid clinker benchmark for Phase III of the European Union Emissions Trading Scheme. [23846]

Mr Prisk: The European Commission's proposal for the free allocation rules for Phase III of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) was sent to member states on 22 October, including the proposed hybrid clinker benchmark. There have been no meetings with cement producers who do not manufacture in the UK about this proposed hybrid approach.

Officials have met with Holcim, which does not manufacture cement in the UK, on two occasions in January and February 2010. These meetings were about the broad issue of cement benchmarking, rather than the currently proposed hybrid approach.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the likely effects on the UK ready-mix concrete industry of the European Commission's proposal for a hybrid clinker benchmark for Phase III of the European Union Emissions Trading scheme. [23844]

Mr Prisk: The European Commission's proposal for the free allocation rules for Phase III of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) was sent to member states on 22 October. My officials, along with officials from the Department for Energy and Climate Change, are in the process of analysing the proposal in detail in order to assess its impact, including the effects on the UK ready-mix concrete industry. I have met with representatives from the UK cement sector in order to discuss the proposal and ensure that we have a full understanding of the implications of the proposed approach. Officials from both Departments will also be having discussions with the European Commission on this issue.

Green Investment Bank

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding from the sale of Government assets he expects to be allocated to the proposed Green Investment Bank. [23146]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 11 November 2010]*: We are unable to provide commercially sensitive information on expected proceeds from individual asset sales at this stage. However, at an aggregate level, the Government are confident that the asset sales they are considering will be sufficient to provide significant additional funding above the £1 billion allocated to the Green Investment Bank from departmental budgets. They will make further announcements on this funding stream in due course.

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the proceeds from the sale of High Speed 1 are to be used as start-up capital for his Department's proposed Green Investment Bank. [23151]

Mr Prisk: We are unable to provide commercially sensitive information on expected proceeds from individual asset sales at this stage. However, at an aggregate level, the Government are confident that the asset sales they are considering will be sufficient to provide significant additional funding above the £1 billion allocated to the Green Investment Bank from departmental budgets. They will make further announcements on this funding stream in due course.

Higher Education: Student Wastage

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many UK-based students started but did not complete a degree course within a specified period at a university in England in each of the last five years; and what estimate he has made of the average student debt of such individuals. [21946]

Mr Hayes: The numbers of UK-domiciled full-time first degree entrants to higher education institutions in England who were projected to neither gain an award nor transfer to another higher education institution in the UK are shown in Table 1. Figures are taken from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Performance Indicators in Higher Education in the UK. Information for the 2008/09 academic year will become available from April 2011.

Table 1: UK-domiciled full-time first degree entrants to higher education institutions in England projected to neither gain an award nor transfer to another UK higher education institution—academic years 2003/04 to 2007/08

Academic year	*Entrants*	*Number projected to neither gain an award nor transfer*	*Percentage projected to neither gain an award nor transfer*
2003/04	258,530	37,230	14.4
2004/05	258,035	35,610	13.8
2005/06	276,685	38,460	13.9
2006/07	265,895	35,630	13.4
2007/08	280,065	35,570	12.7

Note:

Numbers are rounded to the nearest five and percentages are given to one decimal place.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency Performance Indicators in Higher Education in the UK

Table 2 shows the latest available information from the Student Loans Company (SLC) on students with a student loan balance who are known to have withdrawn. These figures are on a different basis to the HESA figures in Table 1 and should not be combined in calculations. SLC figures cover England domiciled students who attended a Higher Education Institution (HEI) in England, took out a student loan, and for whom the HEI subsequently informed SLC that the student had withdrawn from their course. SLC figures may include postgraduate and part-time Initial Teacher Training students with loans, and refer to the position at 30 April 2010.

Table 2: Students with loans who are known to have withdrawn[1] England domicile, England Higher Education Institutions—academic years 2004/05 to 2007/08

Academic year of entry to Higher Education	*Number of students with loans known to have withdrawn*	*Average student loan balance at end of financial year of withdrawal (£)[2]*
2004/05	19,600	6,350
2005/06	20,600	6,260
2006/07	19,400	7,050
2007/08	16,400	6,560

[1] New entrants in the given academic years for whom the higher education institution have provided SLC with confirmation of withdrawal.

[2] Average loan balances include balances in respect of any previous courses (which the student may have completed successfully).

Notes:

1. Data are provisional.
2. Student numbers are rounded to nearest 100.

Source:

Student Loans Company (SLC)

SLC data are not available before 2004/05. Comparable HESA and SLC data are not available.

Local Enterprise Partnerships

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will bring forward proposals to ensure that local enterprise partnerships have at least one representative from a co-operative or other mutual organisation on their boards. [24082]

Mr Prisk: As set out in the White Paper on Local Growth the Government will normally expect to see business representatives form half the board, with a prominent business leader in the chair. Partnerships will want to work closely with other key economic stakeholders including social and community enterprises.

Northwest Regional Development Agency: Assets

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the current monetary value of properties owned by the Northwest Regional Development Agency; and what advice he has received on *(a)* the amount (i) likely to be realised by an early sale of those properties and (ii) which might be realised if a sale was delayed and *(b)* alternative uses for those properties. [23606]

Mr Prisk: The current value of properties owned by the Northwest Regional Development Agency, as for all other RDAs, is currently under review. It is not possible at present to estimate the extent of receipts arising from the disposal of the assets of the regional development agencies as decisions have yet to be made on the scope and timing of any sale. No decision has yet been made on any specific asset and no dates have been set for the transfer or disposal of specific assets and liabilities other than ordinary disposals.

Overseas Trade: India and China

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to support access for UK technology companies to new markets in *(a)* India and *(b)* China; and if he will make a statement. [23502]

Mr Prisk: The coalition Government have committed to enhanced partnerships with emerging powers, including India and China, with trade and investment at the centre of our prosperity and growth. This includes maximising our comparative advantages, including for world-class UK technology companies.

We have ongoing Government to Government dialogue with India and China through the respective Joint Economic Trade Committee and Commission. By this process, we are seeking greater access for UK companies, including SMEs. In addition, we continue to provide advice, support and expertise through UK Trade and Investment to help our firms access these markets.

Specifically for the technology sector, UKTI has been running campaigns in China and India to enable UK technology companies to access supply chain opportunities with large overseas customers.

The Prime Minister has also launched the global Technology Taskforce which, with £15 million of funding, will recruit the very best technology companies and talent to Britain and help entrepreneurial and innovative start-ups in the UK to internationalise.

Personnel: Drugs

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what regulations govern the ability of employers to conduct workplace tests for alcohol and drugs on employees. [21475]

Mr Prisk: There is no legislation specifically governing the ability of employers in general to conduct alcohol and drug tests on their employees. It is a criminal offence for some workers in certain sectors, such as train drivers for example, to be unfit to work through the use of drink or drugs. Professional associations may also impose sanctions on their members.

Testing for alcohol and drugs cannot be carried out without an employee's consent. When employers collect personal information about their employees through drug or alcohol testing, this will be subject to the Data Protection Act. The Information Commissioner has produced an Employment Practices Code including guidance on alcohol and drug testing in the workplace which can be found at:

www.ico.gov.uk

Radio Frequencies

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 28 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 458W, on public expenditure, who is undertaking the work to identify spectrum suitable for release; and what representations he has received on the proposed release of public sector spectrum. [22872]

Mr Vaizey: Work to create an appropriate governance structure to manage the process of release and an implementation timetable is currently under way, led by the Shareholder Executive and the Treasury. Once this is approved by Ministers, expected to be no later than March 2011, we will be able to give more detail on how the work to identify spectrum will be taken forward.

Current discussions involve the relevant Departments, particularly MOD and Ofcom. To date I have received no representations from outside Government.

Regional Growth Fund

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what support his Department is providing *(a)* for small enterprises and *(b)* to create employment prior to the implementation of the Regional Growth Fund. [22641]

Mr Prisk: A number of measures are being undertaken with the purpose of stimulating growth which is targeting support for small and medium—sized enterprises (SMEs).

As the regional development agencies are decommissioned I will introduce a new and flexible delivery system which will include a national website, a national contact centre and access to mentors which should help SMEs to grow. I also intend to establish a network of growth hubs in England to support businesses with high growth potential.

The Government will provide highly focused support to SMEs through a renewed and streamlined portfolio of business improvement products through Solutions for Business to be launched by this Department by April 2011.

We are establishing Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) as set out in the White Paper on Local Growth. This will involve local business and civic leaders working together to drive economic growth and create new jobs in their communities.

The coalition Government have articulated their ambition to ensure the flow of credit to viable SMEs. The Government have published their response to the consultation on business finance issues, "Financing a private sector recovery". It is available at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/businessfinance

Government are aware of the need to support small enterprises and we have set out our strategy "Backing small business" which is available at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/backing-small-business

Among other measures, we have confirmed our intention to continue the Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme until 2014-15, providing up to £600 million of additional commercial lending to around 6,000 small and medium-sized enterprises next year alone and over £2 billion in total over the next four years, subject to demand.

We have also undertaken to continue the programme of Enterprise Capital Funds by increasing our commitment by £200 million over the next four years, providing more than £300 million of investment for early stage innovative SMEs.

The Regional Growth Fund was launched on 28 October with the publication of the Local Growth White Paper, 'Local growth: realising every place's potential'. It is available at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/news/topstories/2010/Oct/local-growth

Prior to the implementation of the Regional Growth Fund, Government intend to pursue their strategy as stated in "Backing small business" to promote small business procurement by aspiring to award 25% of Government contracts to SMEs.

We also intend to continue to support those starting a business by making it easier for new entrants to enter the market faster and enabling persons on jobseeker's allowance and in social housing to move into self-employment.

Science: Finance

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will assess the effect on gross domestic product of a reduction of £1 billion in science funding from his Department in the comprehensive spending review period. [23059]

Mr Willetts: The comprehensive spending review 2010 (CSR 2010) maintains constant cash funding for science programmes through to 2014-15. While there is a significant literature base examining the link between Government science funding and its effect on GDP, it is extremely difficult to derive specific estimates of the income effects of particular changes in science funding. As with all savings being made in the BIS settlement, within the science budget, we are working closely with research councils and HEFCE to deliver savings as far as possible through a combination of reform and efficiencies, for example through the Wakeham proposals to incentivise efficiency in university research.

Students: Fees and Charges

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the likely effects on postgraduate education of proposed increases in the level of tuition fees for undergraduate education. [23673]

Mr Hayes: The Government are committed to Britain being a world leading place to do research and despite huge pressure on public spending, the overall level of funding for science and research programmes has been protected in cash terms in a ring-fenced budget. We will, as Lord Browne suggested in his recent review, monitor participation in postgraduate study to identify whether changes to the undergraduate funding and finance system have any effect on entry to postgraduate courses, but we are confident that we will continue to have a world class research base. As now, postgraduate students have access to professional career development loans to support their studies.

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effects on the number of students deferring entry to higher education from 2011 until 2012 of the increase in the cap on tuition fees in 2012. [23860]

Mr Hayes: Statistics on deferred entry to higher education are available via the University and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). In 2010 479,057 applicants accepted a place; 32,983 of these deferred entry to 2011. This covers applicants from all domiciles to all UK institutions.

It is still very early in the UCAS application cycle for entry in 2011 or beyond, so no information is held on the extent of deferred entry. Applicants can make up to five choices on their application form and this can include courses that start in 2011 or 2012.

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effects on organisations that operate gap-year placement programmes of the likely reduction in demand for such placements in 2011 resulting from the increase in the cap on tuition fees in 2012. [23861]

Mr Hayes: A relatively small number of prospective students apply each year for deferred entry to higher education, including those who decide to undertake a gap year. Statistics on deferred entry to higher education are available via the University and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). In 2010, 479,057 applicants accepted a place; 32,983 of these deferred entry to 2011. UCAS has sent a message to those who have applied for 2012 entry alerting them to the Government's recent announcement about future funding for higher education, directing them to the BIS website for additional information and suggesting further discussion with their preferred university. The decision to defer entry to higher education is not generally taken lightly and there will be a number of considerations that individuals will, doubtless, take into account. It is not possible to say at this stage whether any of those who have applied for deferred entry will seek to reapply for 2011 and so no assessment has been made of the impact on gap-year placement organisations.

Students: Finance

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether students who finish A-levels in the 2010 academic year who apply for deferred entry to university in 2012 will be eligible to apply for financial support under *(a)* existing arrangements and *(b)* new arrangements coming into force for students applying in 2012. [22367]

Mr Hayes: The new support arrangements we are introducing from the 2012-13 academic year will apply to all students starting university in that year, including those who have deferred entry.

Technology Strategy Board

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding each research council allocated to the Technology Strategy Board in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [21215]

Mr Willetts: The research councils have allocated the following funding to the Technology Strategy Board—the figures include co-funding and aligned funding activities:

£

Research council:	*2008/09*	*2009/10*	*2010/11*	*Total*
AHRC	2,299,865	785,977	5,641,994	8,727,836
BBSRC	10,265,897	10,850,725	20,201,077	41,317,699
EPSRC	34,968,912	20,953,808	43,635,736	99,558,457
ESRC	3,746,755	5,486,422	2,611,172	11,844,348
MRC	1,415,000	4,227,500	22,912,027	28,554,527
NERC	1,176,007	2,231,832	5,767,839	9,175,678
RCUK	10,283	10,283	23,500	44,065
STFC	271,000	828,473	638,001	1,737,474
Total	54,153,718	45,375,021	101,431,345	200,960,084

CABINET OFFICE

Voluntary Work: Young People

Ben Gummer: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what plans his Department has for future funding of the youth volunteering organisation v. [23116]

Mr Hurd: We are continuing to finalise the details of our spending review settlement. I will be able to say more about the future funding position of v once this process has been concluded.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing: Construction

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new affordable homes his Department plans to fund in each of the next five years. [23564]

Grant Shapps: In the spending review we announced almost £4.5 billion investment for new affordable housing to deliver up to 150,000 affordable homes in England over the spending review period. We are giving housing associations much more flexibility on rents and use of assets, so our aspiration is to deliver even more homes through our investment and reforms. We will publish details of how these proposals will work shortly.

Local Government Finance

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether it is his policy to seek to ensure that all local authorities receive the same level of reduction in formula grant; and if he will make a statement. [23670]

Robert Neill: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 11 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 459W.

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment he has made of the average change in the level of central Government funding for a local authority in the next four years. [23681]

Robert Neill: The spending review 2010 provides a fair though challenging settlement for local government. It enables the Government to tackle the massive budget deficit and drive economic growth, while protecting the interests of hard working families and the most vulnerable in society. It provides significant new freedoms and flexibilities for local government to enable councils to become more efficient and effective in delivering local public services.

The picture for individual local authorities will be dependent on decisions on both formula grant distribution and on individual specific grants. We will announce our proposals for the distribution of formula grant in the usual manner in due course. Our aim is also to make as much information available on other grants at the same time.

Mortgages

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions he has had with the Council of Mortgage Lenders on the Financial Services Authority's responsible lending proposals and their effects on the housing market. [23849]

Grant Shapps: The Government welcomes all contributions to the debate on the Financial Services Authority consultation, including the substantial research commissioned by the Council of Mortgage Lenders. Responsible lending, including to first-time buyers and the self-employed, is essential to support access to homeownership and new housing supply.

My officials have worked closely with the Council of Mortgage Lenders and the Financial Services Authority on these proposals and will continue to do so.

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effects of the Financial Services Authority's mortgage market review proposals on *(a)* the housing market and *(b)* the supply of new homes; and if he will make a statement. [23858]

Grant Shapps: The Government support the objective of the Mortgage Market Review to create a sustainable market for all participants. Responsible lending, including to first-time buyers and the self-employed, is essential to support access to homeownership and new housing supply.

The Financial Services Authority's proposals are of great importance to the future of the housing market and deserve wide debate based on the best possible evidence.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Commonwealth Games 2014: BBC

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he had with the BBC Trust on the decision of the BBC not to act as host broadcaster for the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games. [23737]

Mr Vaizey: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport has not had any discussions with the BBC Trust on this matter.

Commonwealth Games: BBC

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he had with the BBC Trust on the costs to the BBC of covering the Delhi 2010 Commonwealth Games. [23736]

Mr Vaizey: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport has not had any discussions with the BBC Trust on this matter.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each of its Ministers in *(a)* September and *(b)* October 2010. [21776]

John Penrose: All expenditure on hospitality is made in accordance with published departmental guidance, based on the principles set out in Managing Public Money.

Hospitality was provided for one event in September: an official function hosted by the Minister for Sport and the Olympics at a cost of £220.50.

Departmental Policy

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what departmental policy reviews his Department has undertaken since 6 May 2010; on what date each such review *(a)* was announced and *(b)* is expected to publish its findings; what estimate he has made of the cost of each such review; who has been appointed to lead each such review; to what remuneration each review leader is entitled; how many (i) full-time equivalent civil servants and (ii) seconded staff are working on each such review; from which organisations such staff have been seconded; and how much on average such seconded staff will be paid for their work on the review. [21888]

John Penrose: All of the Department's arm's lengthbodies were reviewed in the lead up to the spending review announcements in October, using existing resources. On 8 June, the Secretary of State announced that Nicholas Shott had been appointed to carry out an independent and pro bono assessment of the conditions necessary for commercially viable local television to emerge in the UK. He receives no remuneration from the Department but receives some support from four full-time equivalent DCMS officials who are working on the DCMS local TV project. Nicholas Shott presented the Secretary of State with his initial findings on 24 September, which can be found on the DCMS website at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/publications/NShott_InterimFindingsLocalTV_240910.pdf

Nicholas Shott's final conclusions are expected to be published in December 2011. On 20 July the hon. Member for Bath (Mr Foster) was asked to review abandoned betting accounts and other unclaimed winnings. He is not being paid to lead the review, and is working with two civil servants as part of their existing daily role. The report will look at how much money is left abandoned in betting accounts and uncover the value of unclaimed winning tickets, defining "dormant" and looking at how these funds could potentially benefit local communities through investment in sport. The report will be published by the end of 2010.

Also, on 19 July Tim Lamb, chief executive of the Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR) was commissioned to review both its voluntary code of conduct for sports broadcasting, with a view to generating a funding boost to grassroots sport, and the bureaucracy affecting sport. No civil servants work on these reviews and they have no direct cost to DCMS. The reports are expected to be published by the end of November and by the end of February 2011 respectively.

Digital Broadcasting: Radio

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what consideration his Department has given to concerns of local radio stations in respect of digital switchover. [23907]

Mr Vaizey: The Department holds regular discussions with representatives of the radio sector, including local commercial radio, about digital radio switchover.

In addition, the Digital Radio Action Plan, published earlier this year, provides a number of fora for all stakeholders to engage with and contribute to the development of Digital Radio Switchover policy.

Institute for Fiscal Studies

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on services provided by the Institute for Fiscal Studies in each of the last 10 years. [23390]

John Penrose: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has made no payments for services to the Institute of Fiscal Studies in the last 10 years.

Television: Licensing

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many people aged 75 or over in Livingston constituency are in receipt of a free television licence. [23901]

Mr Vaizey: The Department does not hold this information. Free television licences for people aged 75 or over are issued by TV Licensing as agents for the BBC. This is, therefore, a matter for the BBC.

I understand, however, that the BBC does not collate information on licence holders aged 75 or over by constituency, county or nation as this is not necessary for the purposes of licence fee collection.

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many registered blind people in Livingston constituency are in receipt of a discounted television licence. [23902]

Mr Vaizey: The Department does not hold this information. Free television licences for the blind are issued by TV Licensing as agents for the BBC. This is, therefore, a matter for the BBC.

I understand that the BBC does not collate information on blind licence holders by constituency, county or nation as this is not necessary for the purposes of licence fee collection.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will discuss with his German counterpart the provision by Germany of field hospital *(a)* equipment and *(b)* medical technicians for the NATO mission in Afghanistan. [21687]

Dr Fox: Germany is a key ally in NATO and Europe, and I regularly discuss Defence issues with the German Defence Minister. We last met, in London, on 28 June 2010, where we discussed a range of Defence issues including Afghanistan. Medical support in Afghanistan is, however, controlled and co-ordinated through the international security assistance force (ISAF) headquarters. Coalition assets already work closely together with great success, with the requirement for medical support based on the operational need. ISAF has developed protocols to ensure all coalition personnel are supported in the most appropriate manner.

Armed Forces: Facilities

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* Royal Air Force facilities there are in each (i) Government Office region, (ii) local authority area and (iii) parliamentary constituency. [21437]

Mr Robathan: Annex A of the Defence Estate Development Plan 2009 provides a list of defence sites, by Service, government region and parliamentary constituency as at July 2009.

Copies have been placed in the Library of the House.

A corresponding list of sites by local authority area is not held and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Atomic Weapons Establishment

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the terms of reference are of the Atomic Weapons Establishment's Nuclear Weapon Policy Development Group; when the group was first established; how often it has met; and on what date it last met. [21968]

Peter Luff: The Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) does not have a body named the Nuclear Weapon Policy Development Group; there is, however, a Nuclear Weapons Policy Discussion Programme (NWPDP).

The aim of the NWPDP is to provide a forum for discussion for nominated AWE employees to develop their competencies and understanding of nuclear weapons policy and the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. Established in April 2006, it has met approximately 50 times, most recently on 26 October 2010. The NWPDP does not formulate nuclear weapons policy.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the reasons were for the increase in estimated costs of Project Hydrus at the Atomic Weapons Establishment; and how much the estimated cost increase was. [21974]

Peter Luff: I am withholding information relating to the costs of Project Hydrus as its disclosure would prejudice commercial interests.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* permanent staff, *(b)* temporary staff and *(c)* contractors were employed at the Atomic Weapons Establishment in each of the last three years; and how many such staff he expects to be employed at the establishment in each of the next three years. [21976]

Peter Luff: The numbers of staff employed at the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) in the last three years are provided in the following table.

	Permanent staff	*Contractors*	*Temporary staff*
2010	4,700	980	0
2009	4,790	970	0
2008	4,690	840	0

All figures represent full-time equivalent staff, and are as of the end of March in each year. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10. These staff are employed by either AWE plc or their sub-contractors.

Based on current planning assumptions, AWE plc staffing targets for the next three years are approximately 4,700 permanent full-time equivalent staff, no temporary staff and 1,000 'integrated personnel', who are contractors employed by AWE plc for a fixed term to provide specific skills and expertise.

AWE Aldermaston: Fires

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who will lead the independent review of the fire at the Atomic Weapons Establishment, Aldermaston; and when he expects the findings of the review to be published. [21970]

Peter Luff: The independent review will be led by Mr Peter McIntyre, an independent member of the Atomic Weapons Establishment's Nuclear Safety Committee. It is expected that the findings will be published before the end of the year.

Defence: Expenditure

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether part of the Government's contribution to the NATO defence spending target of 2 per cent. of gross domestic product will be drawn from his Department's counter-terrorism budget. [23684]

Nick Harvey: The majority of the Ministry of Defence's counter-terrorism activities are provided in support of other Government Departments, for which it is reimbursed. No part of this funding from other Departments was included in the estimate that future defence spending will meet the NATO target. The MOD counter-terrorism activities funded from its core budget form part of the NATO definition of Defence spending.

Ex-servicemen

Mr Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many veterans there are who served in the armed forces between 1939 and 1945. [23223]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence does not hold information on the overall number of surviving veterans who served in the armed forces between 1939 and 1945.

Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 4 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 953W, on the joint strike fighter aircraft, what views his US counterpart expressed on the decision not to purchase the short take-off and vertical landing variant of the F35 aircraft. [23691]

Mr Robathan: The United States Department of Defense has been supportive of the UK Strategic Defence and Security Review. However, it is not the practice of the Government to make public the details of all discussions with foreign Governments as this could prejudice international relations.

Military Aircraft

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the relative capabilities of *(a)* hunter-killer submarines and *(b)* maritime patrol aircraft to (i) detect and (ii) counter the threat from potentially hostile submarines. [22602]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 11 November 2010]:* Both submarines and maritime patrol aircraft, as well as a number of other military assets, have capabilities to detect and counter the threat from potentially hostile submarines. In view of the sensitive and classified nature of these military tasks, and the implications for the protection of our armed forces, I am not prepared to provide further detail.

Nimrod Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment he has made of the likely effect on the level of long-range search and rescue provision of the cancellation of the Nimrod MR4A project; [21385]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect of the cancellation of the Nimrod MR4A aircraft order on the ability of the UK to honour its obligations under section 2.6 of Annex 12 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation; [21444]

(3) what assets he has designated for search and rescue under section 2.5 of Annex 12 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation; and where each is located; [21445]

(4) what assessment he has made of the effect of the closure of the Aeronautical Rescue Co-ordination Centre at RAF Lossiemouth on the UK's ability to honour its obligation in section 2.1 to 2.4 of Annex 12 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation; [21449]

(5) where the rescue co-ordination centre required to be designated under section 2.6 of Annex 12 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation is located. [21446]

Peter Luff: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 28 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 450-51W, to the hon. Member for East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow (Mr McCann), the right hon. Member for Coventry North East (Mr Ainsworth) and the hon. Member for North Durham (Mr Jones) which made it clear that we are now developing a longer term plan to mitigate the impact of the cancellation of Nimrod MRA4. Meanwhile the UK will continue to provide search and rescue services using a range of assets depending on the response required.

No decision has been taken to close the Aeronautical Rescue Co-ordination Centre, though future arrangements are subject to further work following the decision to withdraw the RAF from Kinloss.

Nuclear Weapons

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the post-exercise report on the Astral Bend 10 nuclear weapons emergency exercise to be completed; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report. [21969]

Dr Fox: Two separate post-exercise reports have been completed following the Astral Bend 10 nuclear weapons emergency exercise. A copy of these reports will be placed in the Library of the House following a review to identify whether any information in the reports needs to be withheld for security reasons.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what sanctions the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator is able to impose in the event of inadequate arrangements for compliance with regulatory standards for defence nuclear programmes. [21977]

Peter Luff: The Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator (DNSR), in accordance with the Ministry of Defence's Joint Services Publications, is able to impose the following sanctions:

Type of sanction	*Explanation*
Finding	Imposed when an issue is considered to have an impact on safety, and on which a response, within an agreed timescale, is required.
Safety Improvement Notice	Imposed if a Finding has a significant impact on safety or if a response to a Finding is inadequate. Action required and the period allowed for resolution is agreed with DNSR.
Immediate Safety Requirement (ISR)	Imposed if an outstanding Finding or a new Finding has an immediate impact on safety. An ISR requires immediate action and may result in the shutdown of a plant, operation or process, until the ISR has been resolved.

Public Expenditure

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what his Department's capital expenditure per head was in *(a)* London and *(b)* the North West in each of the last five years; [21458]

(2) how much and what proportion of his Department's capital expenditure was allocated to *(a)* London and *(b)* the North West in each of the last five financial years. [21468]

Dr Fox: We do not have sufficiently complete data to make a calculation based on the Ministry of Defence's entire capital departmental expenditure limit, our usual measure of capital expenditure. The MOD's equipment expenditure does, however, account for much of the MOD's capital departmental expenditure limit.

We have, therefore, made per capita estimates of the MOD's equipment expenditure by Government office region for the five financial years up to and including 2007-08 as follows:

	£ per capita equipment expenditure	
Financial year	*London*[1]	*north-west*[2]
2003-04	50	275
2004-05	38	246
2005-06	36	234
2006-07	32	272
2007-08	36	247

[1] The figures quoted are in near cash at current prices and include non-recoverable VAT but exclude indirect expenditure such as on subcontracted work.

[2] The per capita calculation is based on MOD contract expenditure on equipment. This includes expenditure on research and development, manufacture and maintenance, including fighting equipment and communications. Information on the location of the primary work activity on each contract has been used to estimate this expenditure by Government office region.

We have made estimates of our capital expenditure by Government office region for the five financial years up to and including 2007-08 as follows:

	£ million expenditure		*Proportion of near cash capital expenditure*[2] *(percentage)*	
Financial year	*(a) London*	*(b) North-west*	*(a) London*	*(b) North-west*
2003-04	370	1,871	6.3	31.7
2004-05	278	1,678	4.3	25.7
2005-06	271	1,599	4.0	23.4
2006-07	241	1,861	3.3	25.9
2007-08	274	1,697	3.5	21.4

[1] Near cash at current prices including non-recoverable VAT. The figures exclude indirect expenditure such as on subcontracted work.

[2] We define capital expenditure as the MOD's capital departmental expenditure limit which includes investment in equipment and infrastructure that has a life over more than one financial year (e.g. ships, buildings and aircraft).

We stopped making estimates of regional direct expenditure after 2007-08 as they do not directly support our policy-making or military operations and are time consuming to compile. We do, however, continue to assess the employment effects of MOD decisions on individual defence projects and defence establishments.

The MOD does not allocate funding on a regional basis. The industrial and economic implications of investment decisions are one factor among many in our decision-making processes, which are driven predominantly by the need to meet military requirements in a cost-effective manner, regardless of where items are procured or MOD personnel located.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

British Constitution

Mr Bain: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what his policy is on the *(a)* codification of constitutional conventions and *(b)* adoption of a codified constitution for the UK; and if he will make a statement. [23026]

Mr Harper: The Government have no current plans to codify the constitutional conventions in operation in the United Kingdom or to bring forward proposals for the adoption of a codified constitution for the United Kingdom.

EDUCATION

Academies: Procurement

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether the provisions of the EU Public Procurement Directive will apply to new academy schools. [9225]

Mr Gibb: The European Union public procurement directive does apply to academies once they have been set up. It does not apply to the process of setting up new academies.

Family Rights Group: Finance

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the provision of future financial support for the Family Rights Group. [23839]

Sarah Teather: The Family Rights Group has a long standing financial relationship with the Department. We have announced the overall funding settlement for the Department for Education, but we are still in the process of determining what this means for specific activities, including future funding for activities undertaken by the Family Rights Group.

We will make further announcements about funding for specific programmes and organisations over the coming weeks.

GCSE

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what *(a)* the postcode and *(b)* proportion of pupils who (i) achieved five or more A*-C grades at GCSE, including English and mathematics and (ii) were eligible for free school meals in 2009-10 is of each school which had a Building Schools for the Future project stopped in his announcement of 5 July 2010. [14944]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 13 September 2010]:* The information requested has been placed in the House Libraries.

Information on free school meal eligibility includes full-time pupils aged 0 to 15 and part-time pupils aged five to 15.

School Food Trust

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the relationship will be between his Department and the School Food Trust once the latter becomes a charity. [23563]

Sarah Teather: The School Food Trust was established as a charity in 2005. From 1 April 2011, it will cease to be an arm's length body, but will continue as a charity. The School Food Trust also plans to set up a Community Interest Company to work alongside the charity.

We expect the School Food Trust will take forward a number of activities for the Department, including continuing to support schools and local authorities to meet national nutritional standards for school lunches, and advising the Government on school food.

The level of future DFE support will be dependent upon decisions to be taken in the light of the spending review and upon the tasks we ask the School Food Trust to undertake. However, it will be free to sell its services to local authorities, schools, caterers and others on a commercial basis.

Schools: Admissions

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many children born in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006 resident in (i) Essex local authority area and (ii) Colchester constituency have not been allocated a school place for September 2010; and if he will make a statement; [14698]

(2) how many children born in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006 have not been allocated a school place for September 2010; and if he will make a statement. [14699]

Mr Gibb: The Department does not collect information on the numbers of children in individual local authority areas who have not been allocated school places. We are keenly aware that in many areas of the country there are sharp increases in demand for primary places. On 5 July, the Secretary of State announced a review of all the Department's capital programmes. We are clear that future spending needs to be more efficient and with a sharper focus on real needs. The Secretary of State has also said that providing funding to support the provision of pupil places where they are needed will be a priority for the next spending review period. We will announce allocations to local authorities in due course.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Energy: Prices

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the average *(a)* gas and *(b)* electricity bill in each nation and region of the UK. [23369]

Charles Hendry: Price data and therefore bill data, broken down for the nations and regions, are not available for industrial and other non-domestic consumers.

For the domestic sector, data on energy prices are published by DECC in Quarterly Energy Prices:

http://decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/publications/prices/prices.aspx

Copies of DECC's Quarterly Energy Prices are also available in the House of Commons Library.

Domestic bills are available on a national and regional basis. Electricity prices for England and Wales are not available separately, as data are collected by Public Electricity Supply (PES) area, and some of these areas straddle the England/Wales border. DECC does not publish average gas price and bill data for Northern Ireland, as gas is not widely available.

Data for the nations

For 2010, average provisional bills for gas and electricity for domestic consumers were as follows:

Electricity (bill based on annual consumption of 3,300 kWh)

£

	Standard credit	*Direct debit*	*Pre-payment*
England and Wales	437	394	441
Scotland	458	413	478
Northern Ireland	496	456	483

Gas (bill based on annual consumption of 18,000 kWh)

£

	Standard credit	*Direct debit*	*Pre-payment*
England and Wales	684	633	688
Scotland	674	620	690
Wales	674	635	682

Regional data

Data by PES region for electricity and by LDZ (Local Distribution Zone) region for gas are published in Quarterly Energy Prices tables 2.2.3 and 2.3.3 respectively.

Gas-Fired Power Stations

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what criteria apply in respect of eligibility for grant support to gas power stations to trial carbon capture and storage technology. [23746]

Charles Hendry: The Government have announced that the CCS demonstration programme (the three projects that will follow the project supported through the current procurement) will be open to projects on gas-fired power plants as well as coal-fired power plants.

All proposals for funding under the CCS demonstration programme will need to meet the objectives and selection criteria for the programme.

We are working on the detailed design of the programme, including the objectives and selection criteria, and are aiming to provide further information by the end of the year.

Gas-Fired Power Stations: Wrexham

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* officials of his Department have had with representatives of Wrexham county borough council on construction of a gas power station on the Wrexham industrial estate; and whether the proposed power station will be eligible for financial support in respect of the installation of carbon capture and storage technology. [23747]

Charles Hendry: Neither I nor my officials have had any discussions with Wrexham county borough council on any proposal to construct a gas fired power station on the Wrexham industrial estate.

All proposals for funding under the CCS demonstration programme will need to meet the objectives and selection criteria for the programme.

We are working on the detailed design of the programme, including the objectives and selection criteria, and are aiming to provide further information by the end of the year.

Nuclear Power Stations

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress has been made in replacing the generating capacity of those nuclear power stations which are approaching the end of their working life; and if he will make a statement. [23204]

Charles Hendry: The Government are fully committed to enabling the development of new nuclear power stations in the UK. The Office for Nuclear Development continues with its programme of facilitative actions aimed at removing unnecessary barriers to private sector investment in nuclear power. So far, energy companies have declared plans to build some 16 GW of new generating capacity with the first new station planned to come online in 2018.

The existing fleet of nuclear power stations will continue to operate to their published closure dates, although operators may, subject to the approval of regulators, seek lifetime extensions on a case by case basis.

Renewable Energy

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on potential risks to the national grid posed by intermittent energy production from onshore wind farms; and if he will make a statement. [22242]

Charles Hendry: The Department of Energy and Climate change was part sponsor for a study carried out by Poyry Energy Consulting on the impacts of intermittency, published in 2009. More broadly, the Government are considering how security of supply can be maintained in the context of decarbonising the electricity system through our work on electricity market reform. The Government will consult on electricity market reform in December 2010.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Aviation

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what flights on official business he has taken with commercial airlines since his appointment; in which class he travelled; and in which class any accompanying *(a)* officials and *(b)* advisers flew. [21611]

Alistair Burt: As set out in the Ministerial Code, Departments publish, at least quarterly, details of all travel overseas by Ministers. I refer the hon. Member to the *Official Report* of 28 October 2010, column 18WS, where my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced the publication of details concerning Ministers' overseas travel during the period 13 May to 31 July 2010.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary travels in business class on scheduled flights. Subject to operational requirements, officials and advisers travelling with him normally travel in the same class. If the flight is under five hours, one official normally travels in business with him, and the rest in economy. By exception the Foreign Secretary travels on charter flights only when a scheduled service is not available or when the requirements of official or parliamentary business or security considerations preclude the journey being made by a scheduled service.

All expenditure occurred on official travel is kept under rigorous scrutiny to ensure value for money and effectiveness. Travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial code and Civil Service Management code.

Cyprus

Mr Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Government of Turkey on its military presence on the island of Cyprus. [23637]

Mr Lidington: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the House on 9 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 128, namely that British Ministers raise the Cyprus settlement process with our Turkish counterparts at every opportunity. I last did so with both Turkey's Foreign Minister and Minister for Europe on 23 October. The presence of Turkish troops in Cyprus is one of the issues that will need to be resolved as part of a comprehensive settlement.

Mr Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to encourage a settlement on Cyprus. [23638]

Mr Lidington: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the House on 9 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 128, namely that at both ministerial and official level, we are urging the leader of the Greek Cypriot community, President Christofias, and of the Turkish Cypriot community, Mr Eroglu, to demonstrate leadership, flexibility and willingness to compromise in the interests of everybody living on the island of Cyprus. We welcome the decision by both leaders to attend the meeting with Ban Ki-moon on 18 November. We remain in very close contact not just with the Governments of Cyprus and of Turkey, but with Mr Downer, the UN special envoy, and we will lend whatever support we are able to in the hope of bringing the negotiations to a successful conclusion.

EU Law

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which EU Directives were agreed by means of a first reading agreement between the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010 to date. [21712]

Mr Lidington: In 2008 119 legislative acts out of 147 agreed under co-decision between the Council and the European Parliament were agreed at first reading. In 2009 the number was 50 out of 72, and in the first six months of 2010 28 out of 33. Lists of all these legislative acts can be found on the website of the Council at:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/App/codec/default.aspx?command=phase&phase=6&lang=en&cmsid=534

European Parliament

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his European Union counterparts on the environmental effects of holding plenary sessions of the European Parliament in Strasbourg; and if he will make a statement. [23194]

Mr Lidington: I have raised the dual sitting of the European Parliament in bilateral discussions with ministerial counterparts in other EU member states, with the European Commission and the European Parliament. This includes both the financial cost and the environmental impact. The Government will continue to press for the European Parliament to have only one seat, in Brussels.

Iraq: Christianity

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the government of Iraq on the recent killing of Christians in that country; and what response he has received in respect of the safety of Christians and their freedom to worship in that country. [23441]

Mr Lidington: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met with Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari on Wednesday 10 November and raised the issue of Christians in Iraq. Zebari confirmed that the Iraqi government will safeguard the rights and freedoms of all minorities in Iraq.

Our ambassador to Iraq met with the Iraqi Minister for Human Rights on Thursday 11 November and raised our concerns with her.

In the wake of the attack on the Our Lady of Salvation Church in Baghdad on 31 October, the Iraqi Prime Minister called on the armed forces and the security forces to remain on maximum alert, and to exert maximum efforts to secure mosques, churches and all places of worship.

The Under-Secretary for State for Foreign and Common-Wealth Affairs, my hon. Friend Alistair Burt released the following the Member for the North East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt) released the following statement on the attack:

"I utterly condemn the attack against Our Lady of Salvation Church in Baghdad. My thoughts are with the families and friends of all those that have been killed or injured in this tragic event. I urge the Iraqi authorities do all they can to bring to justice those who are responsible for this attack on innocent worshippers, and all Iraq's politicians and diverse communities to work together to tackle the threat of violent extremism."

Sri Lanka: Armed Conflict

Mr Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* other Ministers in his Department and *(c)* officials in the British High Commission in Sri Lanka have had with the Government of Sri Lanka on the (i) independence and (ii) credibility of the Lessons Learned and Reconciliation Commission. [23452]

Alistair Burt: During the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister's visit to the UK on 19-20 October, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I raised the importance of ensuring the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission is open and transparent and that it should work with the UN Secretary General's Panel of three Experts. Our High Commission in Colombo has regularly raised the issue in their discussions with the Sri Lankan Government and we will continue to continue to closely monitor its progress given the need for an independent and credible process.

Mr Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* other Ministers in his Department and *(c)* officials in the British High Commission in Sri Lanka have had on the internment conditions of alleged ex-combatants; and if he will make a statement. [23456]

Alistair Burt: We are concerned about the lack of humanitarian access to former combatants and the continued lack of clarity over their legal status. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I raised these concerns with the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister during his visit to the UK on 19/20 October. Our High Commissioner in Colombo regularly raises these issues with the Sri Lankan Government. We hope that the interim recommendations of the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission, seeking a speedy resolution of cases relating to detainees and information on their whereabouts, can be acted on promptly.

Sudan: Politics and Government

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the African Union on the political situation in southern Sudan. [23247]

Mr Bellingham: The UK has regular discussions on Sudan with the African Union and the African Union (AU)/UN High Level Panel led by Thabo Mbeki, most recently at the AU/UN Consultative Forum in Addis Ababa on 6 November. I discussed Sudan with AU chairperson Jean Ping at the AU summit in Kampala from 21-25 July. Sudan will be discussed at the EU/AU summit in November.

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the EU on the political situation in southern Sudan. [23248]

Mr Bellingham: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed Sudan at the Foreign Affairs Council in July and will do so again in November and December. Sudan will also be discussed at the EU/African Union Summit in November.

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the UN on the political situation in southern Sudan. [23249]

Mr Bellingham: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary announced on 2 November that Sudan would be the priority issue for the UK Presidency of the UN Security Council. He will chair a special session of the Security Council devoted to Sudan on 16 November. My right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister and I participated in a high level meeting on Sudan on 24 September in New York.

Turkey: Cultural Relations

Mr Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to increase the level of cultural exchange with Turkey. [23640]

Mr Lidington: In the UK-Turkey Strategic Partnership, signed in Ankara by both Prime Ministers in July, we committed to encouraging and facilitating wider human and inter-societal contacts between the two countries. The British Council leads such efforts in Turkey. Programmes include English Teacher training, vocational skills, higher education and science and climate change.

Turkey: EU Enlargement

Mr Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects Turkey to accede to the European Union. [23636]

Mr Lidington: EU Accession is a condition-based not a time-based process. Turkey's accession is a key goal for the British Government, subject to the rigorous application of the accession criteria. We believe that Turkish accession would be to the wider benefit of the UK and EU, contributing to our security and prosperity. The accession process is challenging and Turkey must prove that it can meet the accession criteria and the requirements of the EU acquis before it can join the Union.

United Arab Emirates: Foreign Policy

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his foreign policy objectives are for the United Arab Emirates. [23298]

Alistair Burt: The Government are strongly committed to elevating our relations with all our partners across the Gulf including the United Arab Emirates. This is a key priority for this Government, as demonstrated by the visit of my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister to Abu Dhabi in June, the announcement of the establishment of the UK/UAE Taskforce in July and engagement of Ministers across Government under the Gulf Initiative.

We are expanding our existing cooperation in defence and security, trade and investment, energy, foreign policy co-operation, culture, sport and education. High-level visits such as the State Visit of Her Majesty The Queen to Abu Dhabi later this month celebrate and help develop our partnerships.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 1 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 626-7W, on abortion, what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of extracting the data for 1984 and 1985; and if he will make a statement. [23717]

Anne Milton: The estimated cost for extracting this data for 1984 and 1985 is £1,437 (plus VAT).

Cancer Drugs Fund

Mr Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which *(a)* drugs and *(b)* conditions are dealt with under the interim Cancer Drugs Fund in each strategic health authority. [23109]

Paul Burstow: Strategic health authorities have set up regional clinically-led panels which will decide on the use of the £50 million interim funding for cancer drugs made available to the national health service in this financial year. Decisions on which cancer drugs are funded and what forms of cancer are treated are a matter for the local clinically-led panels based on the advice of cancer specialists.

Health Services: Older People

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the implications for the delivery of NHS services of the proposed ban on age discrimination in such services set out in the NHS White Paper; and if he will make a statement. [23232]

Paul Burstow: Departmental officials have contributed to the Impact Assessment, and Equality Impact Assessment, which will accompany proposals to implement the ban on age discrimination, which will explore the implications of the ban for the national health service and social care. This builds on the detailed review of age in health and social care carried out in 2009, which highlighted where age discrimination may occur, and recommended some non-statutory actions.

We are committed to promoting equality, which is why, as well as implementing the recommendations from the Age Review, we will implement the ban on age discrimination in NHS and social care to take effect from 2012. Our aim is to eradicate harmful discrimination while at the same time allowing service providers to treat people of different ages differently where this is beneficial or justifiable. The Department is working with the Government Equalities Office to consider how this is best achieved in implementing the ban.

Hospitals: Wellingborough

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 3 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 871W, on hospitals: construction, what procedure will apply to the establishment of any new NHS hospital in Wellingborough following the abolition of strategic health authorities and primary care trusts; who would be responsible for overseeing that process; and if he will make a statement. [23848]

Paul Burstow: The Government have already announced that strategic health authorities will be abolished by April 2012; and primary care trusts by 2013. By April 2013 all national health service provider units are timetabled to have become NHS foundation trusts, which are free to make their own investment decisions as long as their schemes are clinically driven, affordable and take into account local circumstances, in particular the intentions of the local general practice commissioning consortia.

Institute for Fiscal Studies

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on services provided by the Institute for Fiscal Studies in each financial year from 2000-01 to 2008-09. [23498]

Mr Simon Burns: Payments made by the Department to the Institute of Fiscal Studies in each year for the period requested are as follows.

	£
2000-01	nil
2001-02	1,537.50
2002-03	nil
2003-04	2,350.00
2004-05	4,200.64
2005-06	nil
2006-07	nil
2007-08	nil
2008-09	nil

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

Mr Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many medicines have been assessed by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence under end-of-life criteria since it was established. [23110]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on published appraisals to which a National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence Appraisal Committee applied the flexibility for the appraisal of potentially life extending treatments for patients at the end of their lives is shown in the table.

Publication date	*Appraisal title*	*Recommendation[1]*
March 2009	Sunitinib for the first line treatment of advanced and/or metastatic renal cell carcinoma	Recommended
June 2009	Lenalidomide for the treatment of multiple myeloma	Recommended
August 2009	Sorafenib for the first and second-line treatment of advanced and/or metastatic renal cell carcinoma	Not recommended
	Temsirolimus for the first-line treatment of advanced and/or metastatic renal cell carcinoma	Not recommended
September 2009	Sunitinib for the treatment of gastrointestinal stromal tumours	Recommended
November 2009	Topotecan for the treatment of lung cancer (small-cell)	Recommended
February 2010	Trabectedin for soft tissue sarcoma	Recommended
May 2010	Sorafenib for the treatment of hepatocellular carcinoma	Not recommended
June 2010	Pemetrexed for the maintenance treatment of non-small-cell lung cancer	Recommended

Note:

Where a treatment is "recommended", it is recommended in line with the marketing authorisation or in line with clinical practice.

Mr Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether he plans to establish an orphan medicines appraisal process for the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence; [23111]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on the adequacy of the health technology appraisal process for appraising *(a)* orphan medicines and *(b)* treatments for rarer cancers. [23112]

Mr Simon Burns: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) already appraises orphan medicines where these meet the published criteria for referral and we have no plans to establish a separate appraisal process within NICE. Neither have there been any recent discussions with NICE on these issues. NICE consults periodically on its technology appraisal processes, and last did so in 2008-09.

Mr Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to his Department's announcement of 1 November 2010 on the future role of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, whether the cost-effectiveness element of the health technology appraisal will be phased out prior to the planned introduction of value-based pricing. [23123]

Mr Simon Burns: Prior to the proposed introduction of value-based drug pricing from January 2014, we expect that the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) will continue to appraise the clinical and cost-effectiveness of specific drugs and treatments.

Our plans for value-based pricing aim to ensure that clinically effective drugs are also cost-effective, with the national health service paying a price that reflects the value of a drug to patients. As we develop and implement our plans for value-based drug pricing, NICE's role will inevitably evolve with NICE continuing to have an important advisory role, including in assessing the clinical benefits of new medicines. We will be consulting shortly on our plans for value-based pricing.

NHS: ICT

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many computers procured by the NHS in the last three years have not yet been used. [23698]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Primary Care Trusts

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the future ownership of buildings currently owned by primary care trusts following their abolition. [22515]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department is currently examining the implications for the management and ownership of the estate following the dissolution of primary care trusts in 2013. An option appraisal of the various alternatives is being undertaken before making recommendations to Ministers. It is anticipated that an announcement will be made by the end of the year.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments: Primates

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 4 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 877W, on animal experiments: primates, how many of the breeding centres that supply primates for use in scientific research in the UK have a policy in place to reduce their dependence on the use of wild-caught primates. [23900]

Lynne Featherstone: Of the two overseas breeding centres supplying animals to the United Kingdom during the past two years and using wild populations of non-human primates for breeding purposes, both have policies for reducing dependence on wild-caught animals for future breeding stock at least in relation to the animals likely to be bred for supply to the United Kingdom.

Counter-terrorism

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to publish the outcomes of her review of counter-terrorism powers. [22749]

Mrs May *[holding answer 8 November 2010]:* I will announce the outcome of the review to Parliament when it is completed later in the year.

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her Department's budget for counter-terrorism policing is in 2010-11. [22750]

Mrs May *[holding answer 8 November 2010]:* The Home Office budget for counter-terrorism policing in 2010-11 is £569 million.

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her Department's budget for counter-terrorism policing will be in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14 and *(d)* 2014-15; and what her estimate is of the change in funding level in each year from 2010-11 in real terms. [22751]

Mrs May *[holding answer 8 November 2010]:* We are in the process of determining levels of funding for counter-terrorism policing to 2014-15 within the 10% reductions set out by the Chancellor in the comprehensive spending review. A written ministerial statement will be tabled on the Police funding settlement in December which will provide the annual allocation for counter-terrorism policing.

Umar Farouk Abdulmuttalab

Mr Khalid Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent reports she has received on *(a)* investigations undertaken by members of the US Congress and *(b)* materials held by the US Department of Justice on the attendance of Umar Farouk Abdulmuttalab at events addressed by Anwar al-Awlaki at North London Central Mosque since 2005; and what assessment her Department has made of the role of the North London Central Mosque in deradicalisation in the context of her Department's review of each strand of the Prevent strategy. [R] [10247]

Nick Herbert: There is an ongoing investigation into the case of Umar Farouk Abdulmuttalab and it would be inappropriate to comment.

The Prevent review, which will evaluate the programme's effectiveness and value for money, will include examination of the role of mosques and their governance in countering radicalisation and deterring people from supporting violent extremism. The review will be concluded by the end of this year.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Adaptation Fund

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to process donations received from the public intended for the UN Adaptation Fund; and if he will make a statement. [23745]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: We do not have the legal authority to accept donations from the public. We have written to the World Development Movement to ask them to accept them on our behalf.

Alternatively, DFID will have to surrender the donations to the Treasury, or deal with them at an unofficial level and divert the money to a local charity (in accordance with Treasury advice).

Departmental Lobbying

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which of his Department's non-departmental public bodies have undertaken activities to influence public policy for which they engaged *(a)* public affairs and *(b)* public relations consultants in each year since 1997; and at what monetary cost in each such year. [23783]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) has one non-departmental public body, the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (CSC). CSC has not, in any year since 1997, engaged public affairs or public relations consultants in activities to influence public policy.

Departmental Manpower

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff of his Department are based in *(a)* each country where his Department operates programmes, *(b)* England, *(c)* Scotland, *(d)* Wales and *(e)* Northern Ireland. [23837]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development does not publish the numbers of staff in each country where we operate, as this may represent a security risk, especially to our staff serving in hostile environments or fragile states.

However, as at 31 October 2010, 410 UK home civil servant staff, plus 760 staff appointed in country, were based in 55 countries overseas. In the UK, 742 UK home civil servant staff were based in England, and 479 were based in Scotland. No staff were based in Wales or Northern Ireland.

Departmental Policy

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what departmental policy reviews his Department has undertaken since 6 May 2010; on what date each such review *(a)* was announced and *(b)* is expected to publish its findings; what estimate he has made of the cost of each such review; who has been appointed to lead each such review; to what remuneration each review leader is entitled; how many (i) full-time equivalent civil servants and (ii) seconded staff are working on each such review; from which organisations such staff have been seconded; and how much on average such seconded staff will be paid for their work on the review. [21879]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 13 October 2010, *Official Report* column 349W, which outlines the reviews I have launched since 6 May 2010.

The Bilateral Aid Review (BAR) was announced on 16 June 2010, the Multilateral Aid Review (MAR) on 9 June 2010 and the Humanitarian Emergency Response Review (HERR) on 14 July 2010. All three reviews will report in early 2011 as set out in the Department for International Development's (DFID's) Structural Reform Plan.

To date £137,000 has been committed for the BAR and £62,000 for the MAR. The HERR is estimated to cost £437,711.

The team coordinating the BAR consist of three full-time civil servants and one part-time civil servant (working on the review 80% of their time), while the MAR team is made up of three full-time civil servants and one part-time civil servant (working on the review 60% of their time). Two external reviewers are also acting as peer reviewers during the course of the MAR. The HERR secretariat consists of three full-time civil servants, two part-time civil servants (working on the review 60% and 80% of their time) and one part-time seconded staff member from the Development Assistance Research Associates (DARA) (working on the review 50% of their time). We are unable to provide details of remuneration received by this secondee as the number of staff involved is fewer than five. Staff across DFID are also providing inputs into all three reviews and it is, therefore, not possible to determine the total number of officials working on these reviews without incurring disproportionate cost.

Lord Ashdown has been appointed as Chair of the HERR and is not receiving remuneration for his role. The BAR team leader is a DFID Deputy Director, while the MAR is being overseen by the Director of DFID's International Financial Division. In line with the Coalition Government's transparency commitments, DFID is now publishing salary details of its senior civil servants in the format agreed with the Cabinet Office, which can be accessed at:

https://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-DFID/Our-organisation1/Top-salaries/

Overseas Aid: Caribbean

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he plans to allocate funding for assistance programmes for those affected by recent hurricanes and storms in the Caribbean. [23131]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I am aware of the considerable damage and loss caused across the Caribbean by recent tropical storms and hurricanes including Tropical Storm Nicole, Hurricane Richard and Hurricane Tomas. For several Caribbean countries it has been a worse than normal storm season. My Department will consider whether to allocate assistance for the countries most severely affected once more detailed information has been finalised on the key areas of need beyond immediate humanitarian assistance.

JUSTICE

Courts: Wales

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his most recent estimate is of the total monetary cost to his Department of backlog maintenance of all court buildings in Wales scheduled for closure. [23743]

Mr Djanogly: The most recent estimate of the total backlog maintenance for the court buildings in Wales currently being proposed for closure is £1,151,000.

Fraud: Prosecutions

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prosecutions for the use of fraudulent identity documents there were in each of the last five years; [23124]

(2) how many prosecutions for the use of fraudulent identity documents following traffic accidents there were in each of the last five years. [23125]

Mr Blunt: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for selected fraud offences in England and Wales from 2005 to 2009 (latest available) can be viewed in the following table.

The Ministry of Justice's Court Proceedings Database holds information on defendants proceeded against, found guilty and sentenced for criminal offences in England and Wales. The data held do not include the circumstances of each case beyond those specified in the statute and fraud offences do not specify whether fraudulent documents were produced following a traffic accident.

Court proceedings data for 2010 are planned for publication in 2011.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts for selected fraud offences[1], England and Wales, 2005-09[2, 3, 4, 5, 6]

	Number proceeded against
2005	1,647
2006	1,982
2007	7,401
2008[4]	10,090
2009	12,546

[1] Includes offences under the following statutes:
Identity Cards Act 2006, s.25(1), (2) and (6)
With intent knowingly possessing or falsely or improperly obtaining another's ID document.
Identity Cards Act 2006, s.25(3), (4) and (6)
With intent making, possessing or having under control apparatus or article or material
designed or adapted for making false ID cards.
Identity Cards Act 2006, s.25(5) and (7)
Possessing or controlling a false or improperly obtained ID card or which relates to another or apparatus etc for making false ID cards.
Fraud Act 2006, s.1(2a), (3) and (4) and 2
Dishonestly making a false representation to make a gain for oneself or another or to cause loss to another or to expose another to a risk.
Fraud Act 2006, s.6
Possession etc. of articles for use in frauds.
Fraud Act 2006, s.7
Making, adapting, supplying or offering to supply any article knowing that it is designed or adapted for use in the course of or in connection with fraud, or intending it to be used to commit or facilitate fraud.
Vehicle Excise and Registration Act 1994
Fraud, forgery etc. associated with registration and licensing documents.

[2] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates' court for April, July and August 2008.

[5] Identity Cards Act 2006 came into force in June 2006.

[6] Fraud Act 2006 came into force in January 2007.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Benefit Fraud

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to introduce a court or tribunal for the purpose of hearing cases relating to benefit fraud. [23179]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice has no plans to introduce a special court or tribunal to hear cases relating to benefit fraud. Benefit fraud is a criminal offence and such cases are currently dealt with in the criminal courts, either the magistrates court or the Crown court depending on the degree of seriousness of the offence.

Legal Services Commission

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases have been brought against the Legal Services Commission (LSC) since May 2010 in relation to tendering for legal aid; how much the LSC has spent defending these cases; how many cases the LSC has lost; how many working hours have been spent on these cases; and how many more cases are due to be heard. [23822]

Mr Djanogly: It is not possible to answer the question in the exact format requested as the information is not held in such a way by the Legal Services Commission (LSC), which is responsible for the operational delivery of legal aid.

The following figures are all as of 10 November 2010.

The LSC has had 41 claims issued against it since May 2010 in relation to the tender process for the new legal aid contracts.

Of those 41 issued claims, this includes:

1. 32 Judicial Reviews. To date, the LSC has lost one case, brought by the Law Society, six others have been discontinued.
2. Nine Procurement challenges. Of these, one has been decided in the LSC's favour and one has been withdrawn.

The LSC has five cases listed in the week commencing 8 November and another listed on 4 and 5 January. No other cases have been given hearing dates yet.

The LSC has an in-house legal team and it also instructs counsel where necessary on particular cases. The LSC in-house lawyers do not have a computerised time recording system and where no claim for costs is to be made by the LSC, a breakdown of the time spent by the in-house legal team has not been prepared. In addition, the LSC has not yet paid for all of the work done by counsel and so we therefore do not currently hold the information requested.

Prisoners: Disabled

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps the Prison Service has taken to *(a)* review and *(b)* change treatment of disabled prisoners at HM Prison Belmarsh following the disability discrimination claim of Abdullah Baybasin; and if he will make a statement. [23853]

Mr Blunt: In addressing the claim of Mr Baybasin, HMP Belmarsh accepted that some limited failure to make reasonable adjustments in accordance with its obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act had occurred. The Governor of Belmarsh is currently examining the implications of this claim in order to ensure the prison meets its obligations under the Equality Act 2010 (which is now the relevant legislation).

Probation Service: Wales

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many persons were employed by the Probation Service in *(a)* Dyfed Powys, *(b)* South Wales, *(c)* Gwent and *(d)* North Wales probation areas on 31 December 2009. [23270]

Mr Blunt: The latest available staff in post figures as at 31 December 2009 are shown in the following table.

	Quarter 3 2009-10 (31 December 2009)			
Welsh probation areas	*Dyfed Powys*	*Gwent*	*North Wales*	*South Wales*
Chief Officer	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Deputy Chief Officer	2.00	0.00	0.00	2.00
Assistant Chief Officer	0.00	5.00	3.00	5.00
Area/District Manager	2.00	1.00	9.00	13.59
Middle Manager	16.30	17.50	6.40	54.73
Senior Practitioner	0.00	0.00	14.50	0.00
Probation Officer	36.10	72.64	64.80	127.82
Practice Development Assessor	0.60	0.00	0.00	4.60
Trainee Probation Officer	12.00	0.00	9.00	3.00
Treatment Manager	1.80	5.00	0.00	1.00
Probation Services Officer	43.82	55.34	50.67	167.04
Psychologist	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00
Other Operational Staff	2.00	20.28	19.62	13.29
Support Staff—Administration	34.30	55.37	48.28	107.61
Support Staff—Other	16.49	10.84	14.82	30.44
Other Staff	3.41	0.00	5.60	9.59
Not Recorded Job Group	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	171.82	243.97	247.69	540.71

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many persons were employed by the Wales Probation Trust on 30 June 2010. [23271]

Mr Blunt: The latest available staff in post figures as at 30 June 2010 are shown in the following table.

	Quarter 1 2010-11 (30 June 2010)			
Welsh probation areas	*Dyfed Powys*	*Gwent*	*North Wales*	*South Wales*
Chief Officer	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00
Deputy Chief Officer	2.00	0.00	0.00	1.00
Assistant Chief Officer	1.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
Area/District Manager	3.00	1.00	7.00	12.21
Middle Manager	13.80	15.60	7.00	43.63
Senior Practitioner	0.00	0.00	13.60	0.00
Probation Officer	35.30	64.11	61.00	125.39
Practice Development Assessor	0.80	0.00	0.00	3.00
Trainee Probation Officer	5.00	0.00	9.00	2.00
Treatment Manager	1.80	4.00	0.00	1.00
Probation Services Officer	46.58	53.12	49.04	157.91
Psychologist	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00
Other Operational Staff	2.60	19.99	19.84	11.32
Support Staff—Administration	30.00	50.98	48.94	102.37
Support Staff—Other	12.19	9.02	14.95	27.52
Other Staff	3.40	0.00	6.50	12.59
Not Recorded Job Group	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	157.47	220.82	240.87	503.94

Sentencing: Domestic Violence

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many persons were sentenced by courts in England and Wales to a supervision order with a condition of participation in a *(a)* domestic violence programme and *(b)* general offender behaviour programme in 2009. [23272]

Mr Blunt: In 2009, courts in England and Wales issued 6,297 community-based orders with a requirement to participate in a domestic violence programme and 25,410 community-based orders with a requirement to participate in a general offending behaviour programme.

SCOTLAND

Higher Education: Scotland

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what assessment he has made of the likely effect on universities in Scotland of the implementation of the higher education and student finance proposals. [23904]

Michael Moore: Policy and funding responsibility for higher education in Scotland is devolved to the Scottish Government. It is for Scottish Ministers to consider how the higher education and student finance proposals announced recently for England might affect universities in Scotland.

Transparency Section

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he plans to place his ministerial meeting information on the Government's transparency website. [23854]

Michael Moore: Ministerial meetings data for the Scotland Office were placed on the Government's transparency website on 29 October 2010. This information will be updated quarterly in line with Cabinet Office guidelines.

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he plans to place the *(a)* business plan and *(b)* details of ministerial meetings for the Scotland Office on the transparency section of the 10 Downing street website. [23847]

Michael Moore: Ministerial meetings data for the Scotland Office were placed on the Government's transparency website on 29 October 2010. This information will be updated quarterly in line with Cabinet Office guidelines.

To date, only the business plans of the larger Government Departments have been published. This does not include any of the territorial Departments. The Scotland Office business plan for the coming period is being finalised and will be published in due course.

TRANSPORT

Taxis: Licensing

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to bring forward legislative proposals in respect of cross-border taxi hiring. [23069]

Norman Baker: We have no plans to bring forward legislative proposals about cross-border taxi hiring at this time.

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to revise his Department's document Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing: Best Practice Guidance. [23071]

Norman Baker: The Department's Best Practice Guidance for taxi and private hire vehicle licensing authorities was revised in March 2010. We shall keep the guidance under review and make changes as and when appropriate.

TREASURY

Banks: Pay

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance his Department has issued to banks on bonuses to be paid to bank staff in 2010-11. [21060]

Mr Hoban: The Government have worked closely with international counterparts in the G20 and the EU to develop reforms that ensure remuneration policies align incentives on firms' employees with the risks they take. The Financial Services Authority is revising its Remuneration Code to reflect the provisions of the EU's Capital Requirements Directive and new rules will be in place by 1 January 2011. In addition, the Government have introduced a levy that incentivises less risky banking activities and will continue to investigate the costs and benefits of a financial activities tax.

Crown Currency Exchange

Neil Parish: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will review the regulation of foreign currency companies to take account of lessons learned from the entry into administration of Crown Currency Exchange. [23652]

Mr Hoban: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Newton Abbot (Anne Marie Morris) of 8 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 95W.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the regulation of currency exchange services; [23855]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of individuals who have outstanding liabilities following the entry into administration of Crown Currency Exchange; [23856]

(3) what recent representations he has received on the entry into administration of Crown Currency Exchange. [23857]

Mr Gauke: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given on 8 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 95W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Newton Abbot (Anne Marie Morris).

Revenue and Customs: Debt Collection

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the likely monetary value of payments by HM Revenue and Customs to private sector debt collection agencies calculated as a proportion of recovered debt in each of the next five years [23852]

Mr Gauke: Contractual arrangements have not yet been finalised for years beyond 2010-11.

During 2010-11 HMRC will use the services of four private sector debt collection agencies (DCAs) drawn from an existing Government framework contract. The agencies will be paid on a commission basis but actual commission rates are commercially confidential.

VAT: Isle of Man

Mr Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to renegotiate value added tax agreements with the Isle of Man. [23363]

Mr Gauke: We remain committed to ensuring that the indirect tax revenue sharing agreement with the Isle of Man provides the Isle of Man with the revenue that they would collect if they ran a separate indirect tax system.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Equality

Meg Munn: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities pursuant to the oral answer of 20 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 933, whether she plans to bring forward legislative proposals to change the remit of the Equality and Human Rights Commission set out in the Equality Act 2006. [23558]

Lynne Featherstone: We intend to reform the Equality and Human Rights Commission to focus it on its core regulatory and human rights functions, and provide better value for taxpayers' money. Our plans for doing this include legislative proposals which we are preparing in the context of the Public Bodies Bill, currently in the other House. We intend to consult on our proposals early next year.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Housing Benefit: Argyll and Bute

Mr Reid: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer on 8 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 176W, on housing benefit: Argyll and Bute, how many households in Argyll and Bute Broad Rental Market Area in each bedroom entitlement category received local housing allowance which was greater than the 30th percentile rate; and for these households what the average amount was by which the allowance exceeded the 30th percentile rate in each bedroom entitlement category for the latest period for which figures are available. [23864]

Steve Webb: The Department published on 23 July a document on "Impacts of Housing Benefit proposals: Changes to the Local Housing Allowance to be introduced in 2011-12".

Tables 18 and 19 contain estimates, at the local authority level, of the impact of the proposed measure to set the local housing allowance rate at the 30th percentile of rents. Based on these tables in Argyll and Bute an estimated

870 households entitled to the one-bedroom rate exceed the 30th percentile by £9 per week on average;

250 households entitled to the two-bedroom rate exceed the 30th percentile by £9 per week on average;

90 households entitled to the three-bedroom rate exceed the 30th percentile by £10 per week on average;

Fewer than 10 households in the remaining bedroom categories exceed the 30th percentile.

A copy of the document has been placed in the Library.

Jobcentre Plus: Moray

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department has provided any additional resources to Jobcentre Plus offices in Moray constituency since the announcement of the proposed closure of RAF Kinloss. [23744]

Steve Webb: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking whether his Department has provided any additional resources to Jobcentre Plus offices in Moray constituency since the announcement of the proposed closure of RAF Kinloss. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

No additional resources have been allocated to Jobcentre Plus offices in Moray; however, this will be kept under review. Jobcentre Plus is an active member in the Partnership Action for Continuing Employment (PACE) partnership, which is represented on the Moray Taskforce. PACE, a Scottish Government initiative, is a framework for a consistent and co-ordinated public sector response to dealing with companies in difficulty, including redundancy. The key aim of PACE is to help people who have been made redundant into alternative employment or training, as quickly as possible. Jobcentre Plus' contribution includes:

In depth support and help with job searches and CV production;

Skills and training analysis;

Re-training where appropriate to meet needs of local labour market; and

Guidance on claiming working age benefits.

Jobcentre Plus is also a member of the Moray Taskforce Operational Delivery Group. This group combines private and public sector leadership, with representatives from Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Moray Council, the Scottish Government and Skills Development Scotland, along with leaders of local businesses.

Jobcentre Plus has been in regular contact with the Ministry of Defence since the announcement of the closure of some bases and discussions will continue to offer what support we can to those personnel affected by the closures.

Unemployment

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the number of people likely to become long-term unemployed in the next four years. [23679]

Steve Webb: The Department does not produce forecasts of long term unemployment. The Department produces projections for business planning purposes which are aligned to the overall independent claimant count forecast published by the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) alongside the June 2010 Budget. These projections are not OBR forecasts.

The available projections are in the table.

	Long term unemployed (GB)
2011-12	189,000
2012-13	179,000
2013-14	172,000
2014-15	152,000

Notes:

1. For the purposes of this answer long-term unemployed is assumed to mean those claiming jobseekers' allowance for 12 months or longer.
2. Figures are for Great Britain, rounded to the nearest thousand and are an average point-in-time caseload for each financial year. They do not represent the numbers reaching 12 months in receipt of jobseeker's allowance.
3. Figures are subject to a significant degree of uncertainty.

Source:

DWP internal planning

Work Capability Assessment: Mental Health

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many appeals relating to the fit-for-work decision at the initial work capability assessment for employment and support allowance claims related to a mental and behavioural disorder were upheld in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* Glasgow in the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available. [23840]

Steve Webb: The following table details the results of appeals relating to the fit-for-work decision at the initial work capability assessment for claims between October 2008 and August 2009 related to a mental and behavioural disorder for Scotland and Glasgow. A full 12 months of data are not available because ESA only started at the end of October 2008.

Region	*Appeals heard (to date)*	*Decision in favour of appellant*	*DWP decision upheld*
Glasgow	1,200	600	700
Scotland	5,400	2,300	3,100

Notes:

1. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 100 and as a result totals may not sum.
2. The results relate to appeals heard by the end of June 2010.
3. Glasgow is the Glasgow City local authority area.
4. Cases have been selected where the main condition reported at the start of the claim is classified as a mental and behavioural disorder.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 15 November 2010

SCOTLAND

Asylum: Glasgow

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what *(a)* discussions and *(b)* correspondence he has had with (i) the Chief Executive of the UK Border Agency and (ii) the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the termination of the contract for accommodation and other services between the UK Border Agency and Glasgow city council. [24244]

Michael Moore: I am in regular contact with Home Office Ministers on matters related to immigration and asylum. Senior officials in the Scotland Office have regular discussions with the UK Border Agency's director for Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* Glasgow city council, *(b)* the Scottish Executive and *(c)* the Scottish Refugee Council on the termination of the contract for accommodation and other services between the UK Border Agency and Glasgow city council; and if he will make a statement. [24245]

Michael Moore: My officials have been kept informed of the negotiations between UK Border Agency (UKBA) and Glasgow city council which led to the recent termination of the contract to provide accommodation services. The UKBA informed officials in the Scottish Government and the Scottish Refugee Council of the likelihood of termination and of the final decision to terminate the contract prior to the formal termination letter being issued to Glasgow city council on 5 November 2010. I understand that the UKBA is working with support organisations in Glasgow to ensure individuals and families will be transferred to their new accommodation with minimum disruption.

British Waterways Board: Assets

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland (1) what discussions on what occasions he has had with *(a)* the Scottish Executive, *(b)* the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, *(c)* civic organisations in Scotland and *(d)* the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the future of British Waterways assets in Scotland; [24009]

(2) when he last met representatives of British Waterways Scotland to discuss the future of British Waterways assets in Scotland. [24010]

Michael Moore: Scottish assets will continue to be managed by British Waterways Scotland on behalf of the Scottish Executive. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs will be discussing with the Scottish Executive and British Waterways other issues relating to assets, and if the hon. Member wishes to make her own representations, I would be happy to receive them.

Scottish Television

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what *(a)* discussions and *(b)* correspondence he had with the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport prior to the Government's decision not to accept the recommendation by Ofcom that Scottish Television should be classified as a qualified independent producer. [24246]

Michael Moore: I am in regular contact with the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport on a range of matters important to Scotland. The decision not to reclassify Scottish Television as an independent producer for BBC commissions was taken following a wide-ranging consultation. The Government's approach will ensure a fair chance for small and independent production companies in Scotland.

Voluntary Organisations

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland which voluntary organisations in Scotland he has met to discuss the effect of the outcome of the comprehensive spending review; and on what dates. [23555]

Michael Moore: This Government have inherited the largest peacetime deficit in our history. The comprehensive spending review sets out how the Government will carry out Britain's unavoidable deficit reduction plan.

I am in regular contact with a range of stakeholders on matters concerning aspects of deficit reduction. As was the case under the previous Administration, it is not the Government's practice to divulge Ministers' diary schedules.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Lobbying

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent from the public purse on influencing public policy through *(a)* employing external (i) public affairs companies, (ii) strategic consultancies and (iii) corporate communications firms, *(b)* external marketing and *(c)* other activities in each of the last 10 years. [23763]

Mr Paterson: Information on expenditure by the Department's non-departmental public body and ALBs is a matter for each respective organisation, who operate independently of Government. The Northern Ireland Office does not have any agencies. The hon. Member may wish to write to each organisation.

All expenditure incurred by non-departmental public bodies and ALBs must be in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the HM Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Immigration: Northern Ireland

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with the Home Secretary on the effects of implementation of the proposed immigration cap on the academic and research community in Northern Ireland. [23924]

Mr Paterson: None. However, I would be happy to consider doing so if requested by Northern Ireland Ministers or other interested parties.

Institute for Fiscal Studies

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on services provided by the Institute for Fiscal Studies in each of the last 10 years. [23395]

Mr Paterson: The Department has not used the services of the Institute for Fiscal Studies in any of the past 10 years.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Compost

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to support the development of in-vessel composting for the recycling of organic material; and if she will make a statement. [23503]

Richard Benyon: Composting is a vital tool for reducing the amount of biodegradable waste which goes to landfill, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Composting is a key component of many local authorities' waste strategies. However, the choice of how to manage organic waste—through windrow composting, in-vessel composting or other technologies—must reflect local circumstances, which will vary. It is important that any plans for waste management facilities emerge out of local waste strategies.

Departmental Energy

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment her Department's Sustainability Unit has made of the adequacy of the energy efficiency standards of the research laboratories operated by and on behalf of her Department. [23885]

Richard Benyon: Many of DEFRA's research laboratories are licensed to hold or work with category 3 and category 4 pathogens. The capability to contain these pathogens requires significant energy input to ensure the building complies to HSE regulations.

DEFRA proactively manages the energy use within its laboratory buildings through a process of monitoring, analysing and benchmarking data from Smart meters to identify excessive or spurious patterns of use. This is then investigated and remedial action taken where appropriate.

During winter 2009 DEFRA carried out in depth energy and water surveys of all of its laboratory sites. These surveys identified good and bad practice and made recommendations to improve both the energy and water consumption performance of the buildings. These recommendations were incorporated into the Department's long-term carbon and energy reduction plan.

This proactive approach to energy management has enabled DEFRA to reduce energy consumption on its estate from 170m kWh in 2006 to 134m kWh in 2010, an average saving of 5% per year.

Sustainability is an essential consideration in the design process of all DEFRA's laboratory facilities and remains a high priority through the development and build process. The most recently built laboratories on DEFRA's estate adopted sustainability measures to reduce the impact of high energy use and have rated from BREEAM Good to BREEAM Very Good.

In 2010 one of DEFRA's laboratories achieved the rating of 37.5 winning the certification of BREEAM Very Good with a commendation for exemplary management of carbon emissions from the site.

Food: Labelling

Gordon Birtwistle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance her Department issues to supermarkets on the handling and sale of halal meat. [22812]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 11 November 2010]:* I am discussing with the food industry whether labelling and point of sale information can play a greater role in giving consumers a choice. However, DEFRA has not issued any guidance to supermarkets on the handling and sale of halal meat.

Hunting

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she plans to bring forward a motion on a free vote enabling the House to express its views on the repeal of the Hunting Act 2004; and if she will make a statement. [23047]

Mr Paice: The Government remain committed to bringing forward a motion on the Hunting Act, and will do so at the earliest convenient opportunity.

Institute for Fiscal Studies

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department spent on services provided by the Institute for Fiscal Studies in each of the last 10 years. [23392]

Richard Benyon: The Department was not formed until 2001 and data before that year are not held. The following table shows the total spent with the Institute for Fiscal Studies by the department, including its executive agencies.

	£
2001-02	
2002-03	

	£
2003-04	2,643.75
2004-05	3,389.88
2005-06	1,321.88
2006-07	—
2007-08	—
2008-09	—
2009-10	—

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds: Finance

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the monetary value of payments by her Department to the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds was in each of the last five years; and in respect of which projects the payments were made. [23329]

Richard Benyon: The payments made by the Department, which include executive agencies, to the RSPB in each of the last five years are shown in the following tables:

DEFRA

Project	£
2005-06	
—	903,950.93
2006-07	
Environmental Stewardship agreements	255,425.56
Restore or recreate wetland habitats.	6,000.00
SSSI Project	55,754.00
Reverse the decline in the number of farmland birds	79,500.00
Priorities, targets and plans for halting biodiversity loss	95,039.55
Statutory duties to protect and recover endangered species	478,232.00
Facilities and services at national nature reserves	9,500.00
To create new habitats and enhance the landscape	35,087.65
Common agricultural policy reform implementation	5,000.00
Darwin initiative	406,359.23
Environmental Stewardship R and D	79,680.96
ERDP team—north	141.00
ERDP team—south	141.00
Farmland conservation	185,417.23
Marine core	28.50
Organisation support costs	10,014.10
Promotion of sustainable development	42,000.00
R and D Marine Programme	23,932.86
RSPB's ISB Round 7FM project	71,508.76
SCP and waste programme evidence	30,460.00
Sustainable livestock farming	2,791.55
Wildlife and countryside publicity	423.00
Wildlife habitats and biodiversity	175.94
	1,872,612.89
2007-08	
Projects on integrated wildlife/landscape/access.	2,964.43
Advice to DEFRA on priority and delivery of revised UK BAP targets.	81,900.30
Review and confirm funding of partnerships and advice	42,664.51
Support the recovery of priority species through research.	224,971.00
To tackle the threat to our biodiversity...	2,500.00
Mitigate effects of aggregate extraction on biodiversity, geology and landscape	122,365.94
Efficient ongoing management of NNR series.	20,783.40
SSSI projects	28,544.51
Achievement of other SSSI remedies	7,500.00
Maintain six year cycle of condition assessments on SSSIs	141,310.00
Decline in farmland birds and remedial measures.	62,012.00
NNR service standards.	10,000.00
Measures introduced by part one of the CROW Act	36,423.00
Interim Environmental Stewardship uptake targets.	77,294.00
Co-ordinated programmes of funded advice	733.61
Identify and co-ordinate existing and future business partner	5,125.00
50 year vision for water and wetlands	5,000.00
Communications strategy	2,000.00
Darwin initiative	444,929.93
England biodiversity strategy	10,000.00
Environmental Stewardship R and D	65,651.84
Habitat monitoring	4,697.42
Organisation support costs	154,327.14
Pesticides	18,442.00
Promotion of sustainable development	72,000.00
RSPB's ISB Round 7FM project	43,421.79
SCP and waste programme evidence	10,490.00
Waste statistical evidence	52,702.00
Wildlife and countryside publicity	400.00
	1,851,359.45
2008-09	
Advice to DEFRA on priority and delivery of revised UK BAP targets.	24,099.70
SSSIs projects	2,475.00
Deliver and evaluate the London programme	16,178.50
Exemplary quality green space in place	33,258.00
AI preparedness	128,747.10
Axis II policy	172.50
Biodiversity forum	37,339.00
Biodiversity priority habitats	120,000.00
Biodiversity priority habitats and species	95,370.61
Biodiversity priority species	906,767.00
Champion for the natural environment	805.00
Clear integrated vision for environment and land use strategy	10,000.00
Coastal projects	4,000.00
Darwin initiative	381,558.80
Environmental behaviours policy	6,093.00
Environmental Stewardship R and D	277,544.16
Habitat monitoring	9,626.81
International sustainable development	8,000.00
Key arable farmland bird options	13,527.97
Land Management Advisory Service	2,740.25
LBAPs and Secretariat support	132,475.68
Marine environment research programme	110.00
Municipal waste and culture change	854.00
NNR buildings and maintenance and repair	1,793.79
NNR land and buildings leases, rents and nature reserve agreements	17,397.63
NNR visitor access improvements (destination and all other NNRs)	10,000.00
Organisation support costs	386,375.82
RSPB's ISB Round 7FM project	54,299.91
SCP and waste programme evidence	58,239.00
SDC programme—internal	90.00
SSSI partnership projects to maintain and gain condition	49,047.50
SSSI WES and RES agreements to maintain and gain condition	12,706.94
Targeting for tactical plans	1,000.00
Wildlife and countryside publicity	449.44
	3,066,201.20
2009-10	
AI preparedness	133,135.43
Darwin initiative	314,274.48

DEFRA[1]

Project	£
Ecosystems approach project	529.00
Environmental Stewardship R and D	175,622.08
Habitat monitoring	2,391.13
SCP and waste programme evidence	40,949.00
Strategic relationship management: third sector strategy	1,200.00
WAC corporate support	4,415.92
Wildlife and countryside publicity	919.87
	673,436.91

[1] Data on projects for 2005-06 are not held.

CEFAS: 2007-08

Project	£
Purchase of photographic images	187.41

Sewers: Private Sector

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with Ministerial colleagues on the likely effects on *(a)* water companies, *(b)* pump companies and *(c)* sub-contractors of the proposed transfer of private drains and sewers to private sewerage companies. [23203]

Richard Benyon: Policy proposals and the draft regulations for consultation have been agreed with ministerial colleagues at all relevant stages of the Review.

DEFRA officials have been working closely with a steering group including representatives of a number of other Government Departments throughout the Review of Private Sewers and continue to do so. Officials have also met regularly with their counterparts from across Government to discuss the implications of the proposed transfer for all stakeholders.

Sustainable Development

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions *(a)* she and *(b)* senior representatives of her Department have had with PricewaterhouseCoopers on implementation of sustainable development plans. [23886]

Richard Benyon: Neither I nor any of my ministerial colleagues have had any recent discussions with PricewaterhouseCoopers. Although some senior DEFRA officials have met recently with PricewaterhouseCoopers, sustainable development plans were not discussed.

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to implement obligations under Article 11 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities regarding humanitarian emergencies in relation to her Department's policy responsibilities. [21126]

Richard Benyon: It is the responsibility of local responders, including the fire brigade and the police service, to ensure that in accordance with the requirements of article 11, appropriate provision for the protection and safety of persons with disabilities is in place during situations of risk arising from emergencies.

To assist responders with this, a range of key government publications relating to the UK's response to emergencies include advice and guidance on humanitarian assistance for those groups that require support, such as children, young and elderly people and those with disabilities.

Water Supply: Subsidies

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance she has issued to Ofwat on the effect of Exchequer rules on levy-funded subsidies on the proposals in the Walker Review in respect of charging and metering for water and sewerage services. [23358]

Richard Benyon: The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has not issued guidance to Ofwat on the effect of Exchequer rules on levy-funded subsidies on proposals in the Walker Review. Policy on such subsidies is the responsibility of HM Treasury.

Water: Prices

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans to issue guidance on social tariffs under section 44 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. [23478]

Richard Benyon: We will consult on draft guidance on company social tariffs under Section 44 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 following publication of the Water White Paper early next summer. We will invite views later this year on the scope and content of this guidance as part of our consultation on the recommendations made in the Walker Review.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the remit is of Ofwat's assessment of the recommendations of the Walker Review of charging and metering for water and sewerage services. [23505]

Richard Benyon: The Walker Review made a number of recommendations to Ofwat. Ofwat is taking these forward, including the recommendation that it should advise the Government on options for addressing high water bills in the South West.

The Walker Review also made recommendations to the Government. Ofwat is advising the Government on these in its capacity as the independent economic regulator for the water sector.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing: Dartford

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many affordable homes were built in Dartford constituency in the last five years. [23723]

Andrew Stunell: The available information which is for Dartford local authority is provided in the following table.

Not all affordable housing is provided through new-build completions as supply can also come from the acquisition and refurbishment of private sector homes. In 2009-10, for example, a total (i.e. new build, acquisition and refurbishment) of 200 affordable homes were provided in Dartford.

Additional new-build affordable homes delivered: Dartford local authority

	Number
2005-06	30
2006-07	100
2007-08	210
2008-09	160
2009-10	150

Note:
Data are rounded to nearest 10 homes.
Source:
Homes and Communities Agency; local authorities.

EADS

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Suffolk Coastal (Dr Coffey) of 2 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 669W, on the European Aeronautic Defence and Space Company: contracts, what steps he is taking to ensure that EADS will meet its contractual obligations. [24262]

Robert Neill: In June this year we activated a key milestone in our contract with the main contractor, EADS (now branded Cassidian), for delivery of the FiReControl project. This required EADS to complete the main system in three control centres by mid-2011.

Because their record has not improved on delivery of the project, we informed EADS on 8 November that we consider them to be in material breach of their obligations under the contract and required them to remedy the position in 20 working days.

I have made it clear to EADS that they must deliver to time, cost and quality. The Government are not going to bail out this contractor with additional public funding. We are going to stand up for the interests of the taxpayer and the fire and rescue service.

Fire Services: East of England

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the running costs of the Eastern Region Fire Control Centre were in the latest period for which figures are available. [23865]

Robert Neill: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Gloucester (Richard Graham) on 18 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 505W.

Fire Services: Radiation Exposure

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* national and *(b)* local agreements there are in relation to the radiation dose uptake limitation system adopted by each Fire and Rescue Service when attending a radiation emergency at each of the nuclear powered submarine operational berths maintained by the Ministry of Defence as required by Regulation 14 of the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2001. [23634]

Robert Neill: The Ionising Radiation Regulations (IRR) 1999 state that the maximum annual dose to all radiation workers (including firefighters attending a radiation incident) is 20 milliSieverts (mSv). There is an additional limit on women of reproductive capacity of 13 milliSieverts in any three month period.

Under the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations (REPPIR) 2001 regulations it is permissible to set aside the Ionising Radiation Regulations 1999 dose limits at a licensed nuclear site or at an incident involving transport by rail if in doing so it might be possible to save life or maintain critical infrastructure. In this case it is permissible for an informed volunteer to be exposed to a dose of up to 100 milliSieverts.

There is no specific national agreement in regard to radiation doses for firefighters but there are the national standards as outlined above. Information on local agreements (or emergency plans as stated in regulation 14 of the REPPIR) concerning radiation doses is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, under both the REPPIR and the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, it is the responsibility of the individual fire and rescue authority, as the employer, to put in place systems to ensure that employees are protected from excessive exposure to radiation.

Housing Revenue Accounts

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects to conclude his Department's review of the working of local authority housing revenue accounts; and if he will make a statement. [23882]

Andrew Stunell: On 5 October my right hon. Friend, the Minister for Housing and Local Government (Grant Shapps) stated that the present system of council housing finance was no longer fit for purpose and announced his intention to replace it with a system of self-financing through the Localism Bill. The spending review reaffirmed this commitment and stated that a key role for DCLG will be

> "reforming the council housing finance system so local authorities have greater control over their own finances, and can reinvest to meet local housing need".

We will publish further details on the self-financing settlement shortly.

Business Rates

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to increase the support his Department provides to small and medium-sized businesses in respect of business rates. [23908]

Robert Neill: We are already providing additional support by doubling the level of small business rate relief for one year, starting from last month. That will benefit approximately half a million ratepayers. We are also committed to introducing a practical way to make small business rate relief automatic.

Public Lavatories: Standards

Andrew Bingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of people who require toilets to a standard equivalent to Changing Places toilets; what steps his Department has taken to increase the provision of Changing Places toilets in the last 12 months; what assessment he has made of the typical quality of such facilities; and if he will make a statement. [23561]

Andrew Stunell: I initiated a review over the summer to consider options for changes to the Building Regulations in 2013 including Part M (Access to and use of buildings); to identify what may be needed in ensuring they continue to operate effectively and to deliver ever better levels of compliance in the future.

During the review DCLG have received evidence from MENCAP and the Changing Places Campaign which suggest that up to 230,000 people could benefit from improved provision of Changing Places facilities.

Local authorities have powers to provide public toilets in their area and are well placed to decide on the provision of local services and amenities in consultation with their residents and communities.

Regional Planning and Development

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost to the public purse was of the production of regional spatial strategies *(a)* nationally, *(b)* in each region and *(c)* in each local authority in the period between 2005 and 2010. [24011]

Greg Clark: The following table illustrates the grants given to regional planning bodies since 2005, to produce regional strategies.

Costs from 2005-10

	£
North West	12,297,886
North East	5,082,942
York and Humberside	9,742,955
East Midlands	7,540,376
West Midlands	11,064,420
East of England	10,906,348
South East	14,483,696
South West	9,686,542
Total	80,805,166

These figures exclude the cost to local taxpayers of their payments to the regional planning bodies by the local authorities.

No data are held on the substantial costs incurred by local authorities in the production of regional strategies.

Social Rented Housing: Ealing

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the *(a)* average annual income of a household in social housing and *(b)* number of households in social housing in Ealing, Southall constituency with an income classified as below the poverty line in the latest period for which figures are available. [23577]

Andrew Stunell: Information on the average annual income of a household in social housing is not available at constituency level.

Information on the number of households in social housing with an income below the poverty line is also not available at constituency level.

Social Services: Expenditure

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much each local authority spent on adult social care in each of the last three years. [23947]

Robert Neill: I have today placed in the Library of the House a table that gives, by each local authority in England, the net current expenditure for adult social care for the financial years 2006-07 to 2008-09.

Figures for 2009-10 will be published on 25 November 2010.

Working Neighbourhoods Fund

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what equality impact assessment he has undertaken of the closure of the Working Neighbourhoods Fund. [24042]

Robert Neill: In line with our equalities duties, an equality impact assessment into the end of funding for the Working Neighbourhoods Fund has been completed by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

This assessment will be published in due course.

JUSTICE

Corston Report

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has for the future funding of projects arising from the recommendations of the Corston Report on women with particular vulnerabilities in the criminal justice system. [24252]

Mr Blunt: Funding for the Women's Community Projects was a one-off grant and ends in April 2011. It has always been the aim to demonstrate the effectiveness of the projects and embed them as part of local commissioning arrangements. Projects receive funding from a wide range of sources, including probation trusts, local authorities, and local health commissioners.

Directors of Offender Management are working with probation who have the lead role in sustaining successful projects through joint local commissioning and partnership arrangements. The Ministry is also taking forward an action plan for building capacity in the Women's Community Projects to help ensure their long-term sustainability which includes targeted activity focusing on local high custodial sentencing hotspots.

Courts: South West and South East

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to respond to the consultation on the provision of court services in Dorset, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, and Wiltshire. [23295]

Mr Djanogly: The Lord Chancellor hopes to announce decisions on the proposals for the future provision of court services in England and Wales to Parliament by the end of the year.

Institute for Fiscal Studies

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department and its predecessors spent on services provided by the Institute for Fiscal Studies in each of the last 10 years. [23402]

Mr Djanogly: Since its formation in May 2007, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) has paid a total of £5,250 to the Institute for Fiscal Studies. This expenditure was incurred in the 2007-08 financial year. These are the only payments made to the Institute for Fiscal Studies by MoJ or its predecessors since April 2003.

Information prior to April 2003 is not held centrally since it was only from this date that the Lord Chancellor's Department had adopted the current financial accounting system. It would incur disproportionate cost to identify specific expenditure from before April 2003.

Land Registry

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what steps he plans to take to include representatives of all relevant trade unions in his consultation on the future of the Land Registry; [23352]

(2) what timetable he has set for his Department's consultation on the future of the Land Registry. [23353]

Mr Blunt: My ministerial colleague, my noble Friend, Lord McNally has already held a meeting with Public Commercial Services Union on 3 November to discuss the Feasibility Study on the future of Land Registry. He has also agreed to meet the First Division Association on a date to be arranged.

In addition the project team leading the study have scheduled a discussion with Union representatives on 22 November.

Ministers will only make a decision on their preferred option once they have received the feasibility study. If our preference is for a materially different business strategy or ownership structure for Land Registry then a full public consultation process will be undertaken.

I expect to be in a position to make a decision on the preferred option in the new year.

Offensive Weapons: Reprimand and Final Warning Scheme

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will take steps to exclude youths charged with the possession of an offensive weapon or a bladed article from his proposed reprimand and final warning scheme. [23699]

Mr Blunt: We are currently undertaking a comprehensive assessment of sentencing which will include youth sentencing and out-of-court disposals, such as reprimands and warnings. We intend to publish a Green Paper later in the year setting out our proposals for consultation.

Prisons: Females

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to retain the target of the previous administration in respect of reducing the number of women in prisons. [24253]

Mr Blunt: We are committed to diverting women away from crime and tackling women's offending effectively. We are already taking forward a different approach to divert vulnerable women away from custody with a gender specific enhanced bail provision and through the Women's Community Projects. We will publish a Green Paper later this year, setting out plans to reform sentencing and rehabilitate offenders more generally. Our plans for the women's prison estate will be considered in the light of these proposals.

Prisons: Visits

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 8 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 83W, on prisons: visits, what the administration costs referred to are. [23824]

Mr Blunt: The administration costs of the Assisted Prison Visits Scheme in the financial year 2009-10 were £673,424. In the last 12 calendar months, October 2009 to September 2010 the amount was £681,111.

Probation: Wales

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has had any recent discussions on transferring to the National Assembly for Wales responsibility for the Probation Service in Wales. [23228]

Mr Blunt: There are no proposals to transfer overall responsibility for probation services from the Ministry of Justice. As such no discussions have been held or are planned about that matter with the Welsh Assembly Government. We continue to maintain a close working relationship with the Welsh Assembly Government at all levels in relation to devolved and non-devolved responsibilities. This ensures that the commissioning and delivery of offender services take full account of the uniqueness in Wales.

Sexual Offences

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the outcomes of the pilot to introduce polygraph tests for sex offenders; and if he will make a statement. [24116]

Mr Blunt: The Government are committed to the protection of the public through the most effective supervision of offenders. A three-year study of mandatory polygraph testing for sex offenders is under way in the east and west midlands to determine whether such testing might be a helpful tool in the assessment and management of sexual offenders who are released from custody on licence. The Ministry of Justice has commissioned an evaluation of the testing, and the research will consider both implementation and outcomes, including an assessment of the cost-effectiveness of mandatory polygraph testing, should it be shown to be efficacious. The draft report is due at the end of September 2012 and will be published following quality assurance.

Young Offender Institutions

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent reports he has received of the disorder at *(a)* Moorland Institute in Hatfield and *(b)* Warren Hill Unit in Woodbridge; what steps he has taken to prevent a reoccurrence; and if he will make a statement. [23778]

Mr Blunt: I received regular reports as these incidents were taking place. Internal investigations are under way into both incidents. In addition the police are investigating incidents at both establishments. The recommendations from the internal investigation will be closely examined.

Young Offenders: Public Expenditure

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has for the future level of funding for youth offending teams in the comprehensive spending review period; and if he will make a statement. [24267]

Mr Blunt: Levels of funding for youth offending teams over the next spending review period are yet to be decided. Work is currently being undertaken to allocate resources to areas of youth justice and these will be communicated to these areas in due course.

Young Offenders: Reoffenders

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he plans to take to reduce the re-offending rate among offenders aged between 18 and 24 years. [23610]

Mr Blunt: This Government will be setting out their plans for a radical new approach to addressing reoffending—including that of young adult offenders—in our forthcoming Sentencing and Rehabilitation Green Paper. This will outline plans for a system which is more effective in delivering punishment while rehabilitating those who commit crime. To deliver this, we will ensure that offenders face up to their responsibilities, paying back victims and their communities through work, financial penalties and restorative justice.

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 22 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 911W, on youth offenders: reoffenders, what steps the Government are considering to reduce the rate of reoffending. [24572]

Mr Blunt: The reoffending rate for those leaving custody has remained broadly stable over the past 10 years. We are currently reviewing our policies and intend to publish a Green Paper later in the year setting out how we can more effectively sentence and rehabilitate young offenders to reduce reoffending.

Youth Justice

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to increase the number of sentencing options available in magistrates courts where the offender is a youth with no previous convictions and pleads guilty. [23383]

Mr Blunt: Courts are required to give a referral order to a young person aged 10-17 who appears in court for the first time and pleads guilty, unless the offence is so serious that custody is warranted. The referral order is a restorative justice-based order under which the young offender is referred to a youth offender panel consisting of two volunteers from the community advised by a member from the youth offending team.

We are undertaking a full assessment of sentencing and will set out our proposals in a Green Paper to be published later this year. We will do further consultation with the Magistrates Association and others.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what sanctions are in place for young offenders who fail to comply with the conditions of a youth offending team's rehabilitation plan following a final warning. [23453]

Mr Blunt: There are no direct sanctions, but non-compliance with an intervention programme as part of a warning can be cited in any future criminal proceedings. The likelihood of compliance is a factor in determining whether a warning is appropriate.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many youths charged with each type of offence have been issued with more than one final warning in each of the last five years. [23454]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows figures for juveniles who received a warning and who had received at least one previous warning, as recorded on the Police National Computer.

Table 1: Number of juveniles who received a warning and who had been issued with at least one previous warning by offence category, 2005-09

	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Violence against the person	246	270	210	159	115
Sexual offences	14	20	15	8	8
Burglary	101	136	124	89	66
Robbery	6	9	8	7	7
Theft and handling stolen goods	496	579	537	432	374
Fraud and forgery	21	24	19	21	14

Table 1: Number of juveniles who received a warning and who had been issued with at least one previous warning by offence category, 2005-09

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Criminal damage	103	133	96	68	61
Drug offences	321	274	298	273	278
Indictable motoring offences	1	4	—	2	—
Other indictable offences	38	53	41	31	32
Summary offences	883	1,105	1,045	872	669
Total	2,230	2,607	2,393	1,962	1,624

The figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, but the police national computer, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police. The PNC largely covers 'recordable' offences—these are all indictable and triable-either-way offences plus many of the more serious summary offences.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Greater London

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders applied to residents of *(a)* the London borough of Bexley and *(b)* London have been extended beyond their original end date in the last 12 months. [23687]

James Brokenshire: Data collected centrally by the Ministry of Justice on the number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued and breached are collated at Criminal Justice System (CJS) area level, rather than for constituency area level.

Information on ASBOs extended beyond their original date is not available. This information could be obtained only by reference to individual court files which could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Oxford West

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders were *(a)* made and *(b)* breached in Oxford West and Abingdon constituency in the latest year for which figures are available. [24090]

James Brokenshire: Data collected centrally by the Ministry of Justice on the number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued and breached are collated at criminal justice system (CJS) area level, rather than constituency area level. Oxford West and Abingdon are within the Thames Valley CJS area.

The latest figures cover the period 31 December 2008, and show that in 2008, 43 ASBOs were issued and 24 were proved in court to have been breached for the first time in the Thames Valley CJS area.

Asylum

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to shorten the length of time that asylum applications take to be processed. [23909]

Damian Green: The Asylum Improvement Project, which was established by the Government in the summer, is exploring new ways to improve the asylum system to speed up the processing of applications while improving the quality of decision making. It is an internal project but the team are consulting with corporate partners throughout the process and will adapt and change the plans as necessary.

Current work includes a number of pilot initiatives including a project in west London to reduce the number of decisions overturned at appeal, the use of a case triaging tool in Leeds which will help caseworkers decide the most efficient way to sequence their activities, and a number of initiatives across the country to reduce the length of asylum interviews and decisions. We will evaluate progress in April 2011 and will implement the successful pilots nationally.

Asylum: Deportation

Mr Nuttall: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many failed asylum seekers have absconded after receiving deportation notices since May 2010. [23343]

Damian Green: We have assumed 'deportation notices' to mean 'removal notices'. Between 1 May 2010 and 31 October 2010, 176 failed asylum seekers absconded after being served with removal directions.

Asylum: Finance

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will place in the Library a copy of each item of guidance issued to retailers on the operation of the section 4 payment card. [23425]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency is not in possession of guidance issued to retailers on the operation of the Section 4 payment card. This is a matter for Sodexo, the contractor who operates the Section 4 payment scheme on behalf of the UK Border Agency. Sodexo liaises directly with the individual participating retailers regarding the provision of guidance.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether retailers participating in the section 4 payment card scheme receive a fee. [23426]

Damian Green: The retailers participating in the section 4 payment card scheme do not receive any fee.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much credit is allocated to section 4 payment cards for individuals with children. [23427]

Damian Green: Section 4 support is paid at the flat rate of £39.39 per person, per week, irrespective of the age of the main supported person and/or their dependants.

In addition, there is provision in the regulations for payments of £5 per week for clothing for children, and for grants of £250 to expectant and new mothers. Further allowances can be made for stationery, phone card and birth certificates. These payments are provided on the payment cards.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the UK Border Agency records instances where individuals using the section 4 payment card have been refused service by participating retailers. [23428]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency records instances where individuals using the section 4 payment card have been refused service by participating retailers. A small minority of attempted transactions result in refusals, and in most cases, are the result of the service user having insufficient funds on their card.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has received reports of any technical difficulties in the operation of the section 4 payment card. [23429]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency records instances where individuals using the section 4 payment card have experienced technical difficulties. The number of unsuccessful transactions caused by technical or supermarket training issues was just over 2% of the total number of unsuccessful transactions to the end of October 2010.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the UK Border Agency takes to *(a)* measure and *(b)* monitor levels of hardship among asylum seekers. [23430]

Damian Green: No asylum seeker need be destitute while their claim is being determined. The UK Border Agency provides support to asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute from the time they arrive in the UK until their claim is determined, and any appeal rights are exhausted.

British Nationality: South East

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people *(a)* applied for and *(b)* were refused UK citizenship who were resident in (i) Reading West constituency, (ii) Reading, (iii) Berkshire and (iv) the South East in each year since 2001. [23496]

Damian Green: The information requested is provided in the following table:

Nationality applications received and refusals of British citizenship in south-east England 2004 to June 2010[1,2,3]

	Applications received			*Refused*[4]		
	Total for Reading	*Total for west Berkshire*[5]	*Total for south-east England*	*Total for Reading*	*Total for west Berkshire*	*Total for south-east England*
2004	455	130	11,175	45	5	645
2005	1,080	205	19,665	80	15	1,455
2006	710	225	14,380	70	10	1,240
2007	750	210	16,700	70	5	1,140
2008	750	175	15,505	30	10	695
2009	820	230	20,375	35	5	845
2010[6,7]	510	110	11,040	10	*	330

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest five, '*' = negligible, i.e. two or less.
[2] Data are available from 2004 when postcodes mapped to local authorities for the reporting of citizenship ceremonies resulted in capture of location information.
[3] We cannot report on constituencies.
[4] The refusal figures do not relate to the applications received in the same time period.
[5] The local authority in Berkshire is called West Berkshire district council.
[6] 2010 figures are available up to 30 June 2010, the last period for which data have been published.
[7] January to June 2010

Note:

The information has been provided from local management information and is not a National Statistic. As such it should be treated as provisional and therefore subject to change.

Source:

Local management information provided by UKBA, North West Region Planning and MI Team

Counter-terrorism

Mr McFadden: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects the review of the Prevent strand of the counter-terrorism strategy to be completed. [21761]

Nick Herbert: The review of Prevent is due to be completed by January 2011, as announced in the Home Office Draft Structural Reform Plan published in July.

Departmental Legislation

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many statutory duties were placed on local authorities by legislation introduced by her Department in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [17018]

Nick Herbert: The information requested is not readily available. The Department for Communities and Local Government is currently conducting a review of the statutory duties it places on local authorities by legislation (including EU-imposed duties), with a view to removing duties which are no longer needed. It is also considering how to broaden this review across Whitehall Departments.

Departmental Public Expenditure

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her Department's capital expenditure per head was in *(a)* London and *(b)* the North West in each of the last five years. [21453]

Nick Herbert: The Country and Regional Analysis is a yearly exercise that Departments participate in that allocates departmental spending to regions based on who benefits from that spending, not necessarily where the spending takes place.

On that basis, the results for the Home Office capital expenditure per head per specified region were as follows:

		£
	London	*North West*
2005-06	4.45	2.80
2006-07	8.05	5.62
2007-08	7.21	4.72
2008-09	8.07	5.31
2009-10	8.63	6.01

Drugs

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress her Department has made on the development of a framework to evaluate the spending and effectiveness of measures aimed at tackling problem drug use. [23841]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 12 November 2010]*: The Government are committed to ensuring that they obtain value for money from drugs policies and interventions. The Home Office has been working with other Government Departments to establish an evaluation framework, which will be used to support assessments of the new drugs strategy, due for publication in December.

Extradition: USA

Mr Russell Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what requests *(a)* the UK and *(b)* the US has made under the terms of the UK-US Extradition Treaty since 2003; and what the outcome of each such request has been. [21837]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 4 November 2010]*: The 2003 UK-US Extradition treaty came into force on 26 April 2007.

(a) Since 26 April 2007 and up to 31 October 2010, 48 people had been arrested pursuant to extradition requests received by the UK from the United States. Of these 48, 24 have been extradited and 23 are currently subject to extradition proceedings. There is one absconder.

(b) Since 26 April 2007 and up to 31 October 2010, the UK has made 32 extradition requests to the United States. Of these 32, 24 have been extradited, one has been deported prior to extradition proceedings commencing, one case has been withdrawn and one case closed due to the person not being located.

There are five outstanding requests.

Please note that this information does not include figures for Scotland.

Firearms

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress her Department has made in its review of the statutory regime affecting firearm ownership; what representations she has received as part of that review from representatives of the gun manufacturing industry; and if she will make a statement. [19058]

James Brokenshire: The Government have submitted evidence to the Home Affairs Select Committee which is conducting an inquiry into firearms controls. Their findings will be taken into account and a written response made. The Government will also be taking into account the results of the peer reviews commissioned by the chief constable into the force's handling of the shootings in Cumbria. A meeting has been held to discuss a range of issues with the British Shooting Sports Council which has associate representatives from a number of shooting organisations including the Gun Trade Association. Representations from other organisations both for and against further controls will be fully considered.

Homicide: Pathology

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward proposals to require two pathologists to attend an initial post mortem for a murder inquiry for the purpose of ensuring greater clarity on the cause of death and to reduce the possibility of unnecessary delays to an inquiry. [24128]

James Brokenshire: I do not believe it would be proportionate to require two forensic pathologists to attend every suspicious death post-mortem examination.

The attendance of two forensic pathologists would significantly increase the costs of the examination and would create additional costs throughout the inquest and criminal justice system processes. Given the number of available forensic pathologists it would also delay the examination in a significant number of cases. This could be justified only if there were clear and substantial benefits.

Currently the coroner instructs a forensic pathologist, routinely one on the Home Office Register of forensic pathologists, to perform the examination. The pathologist will perform the examination, according to standards established by the Home Office and Royal College of Pathologists, and prepare a report. In all cases the report is subject to a critical conclusions check by another forensic pathologist prior to issue. The pathologist will also arrange a more extensive "peer review" in more complex cases.

Of the 2,500 to 3,000 suspicious death post-mortem examinations each year about one-third are determined to be homicide. In many of the homicide cases the cause of death is not in dispute and, where it is, this is often based on a disagreement as to the interpretation of the findings established at the examination rather than the accuracy of the findings. Such issues, frequently, becomes clear only when a pathologist is instructed, and has information provided to him, by the defence—which routinely occurs some time after the initial post-mortem examination. It therefore appears that a second pathologist being present at the initial examination would not improve the standards of the examination or, in a significant number of cases, alter (a) the outcome of the examination or (b) the level of dispute that arises in the case.

Independent Safeguarding Authority: Public Finance

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of *(a)* establishing and *(b)* operating the Independent Safeguarding Authority. [22490]

Lynne Featherstone: The Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) was formally vested in January 2008 and began operational work in March 2008. The costs of establishing prior to vesting were £9.87 million. The establishment costs cover the development of interim IT and the cost of fitting out the ISA's head offices at Stephenson House, Darlington.

The ISA is funded by grant in aid payments from the Home Office. For the financial year 2010-11, the ISA's total resource budget was £16.8 million.

This figure was established before the Government announced their review of the Vetting and Barring Scheme. The terms of reference for the review were announced on 22 October and outcome of the review will be announced in the new year. The ISA budget will be re-assessed in accordance with this review.

Julian Assange

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what reports she has received of threats made to the safety of Mr Julian Assange while resident in the UK. [21492]

Nick Herbert: My Department is unable to comment on matters relating to intelligence received. It is Home Office policy not to comment on the operational or security arrangements of any individual or group, as to do so could compromise their safety.

National Crime Agency

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding she plans to allocate to establish the National Crime Agency. [22783]

Nick Herbert: As my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary said in the House on 26 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 723-38, we will publish figures on costs and the business case for the National Crime Agency in due course. This will cover the functions, size and resourcing of the new agency.

Police: Cambridgeshire

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers there were in the Northern Division basic command unit of the Cambridgeshire constabulary in each quarter since 2005; and if she will make a statement. [22811]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 11 November 2010]:* The available data are provided in the following table which shows the police officer strength in the Northern Division basic command unit of the Cambridgeshire constabulary in each of the years 31 March 2005 to 31 March 2010.

Figures are only available as at 31 March in each year.

Police officer strength in the Northern Division basic command unit of the Cambridgeshire constabulary as at 31 March 2005 to 31 March 2010[1]

	Police officers
2005	308
2006	317
2007	287
2008	290
2009	312
2010	315

[1] These figures are based on full-time equivalents that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Figures include those officers on career breaks and maternity/paternity leave.

Police: Olympic Games 2012

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what plans she has for the number of police bomb detection dog units deployed in respect of the London 2012 Olympics; [22350]

(2) if she will review the adequacy of the training standards for civilian security contractors deploying dog surveillance units as part of the gate security for the London 2012 Olympics; [22351]

(3) if she will discuss with G4S and Wagtail the standards of dog training in respect of the deployment of explosives and firearms dog units at the London 2012 Olympics. [22352]

Nick Herbert: The Olympic Development Authority (ODA), London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (LOCOG), Police and other security agencies are working to an integrated strategy agreed by the Home Office. There are a number of security layers, of which screening for explosives and other weapons plays a part. The screening solutions being developed are sophisticated and involve a range of technologies, dogs and security personnel. All dogs and their handlers that will be used for the protection of the Games, whether by Police or private security, will operate to defined standards and will be supported by a strong quality assurance programme. The capacity of the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) explosives search dogs is being increased ahead of the Games.

At the Olympic Park and Athletes' Village, the Home Office continues to work closely with the ODA and the MPS. Part of this work includes putting in place robust assurance processes to ensure that the explosive detection dog capability on the Park meets the agreed standard. ODA's security department is responsible for the management of that contract.

Proceeds of Crime: Bolton

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much money recovered under the provisions of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 by Greater Manchester police, Bolton division, was received by her Department in 2009-10; and for what purposes that funding was allocated. [23011]

James Brokenshire: In 2009-10 Greater Manchester police helped recover £3.64 million under the Proceeds of Crime Act, but we do not hold any further detail on how this was broken down by division.

Under the current Asset Recovery Incentivisation scheme half of all assets recovered are returned to all the law enforcement agencies involved; and in 2009-10 Greater Manchester police received £1.17 million.

Money returned under the Asset Recovery Incentivisation scheme is primarily intended to support reinvestment in asset recovery. Some agencies have also used this money to fund crime reduction and community projects.

The other half of all assets is retained as core Home Office funding. Some of this is dedicated to reinvestment in asset recovery, such as £10.5 million annual funding for the nine multi-agency Regional Asset Recovery Teams.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether proposed regulation of the next generation of speed cameras will be included in her legislative proposals for regulation of the use of CCTV. [23289]

James Brokenshire: Our review of CCTV does not extend to speed cameras and there are, therefore, no plans to include them in our forthcoming proposals.

Telecommunications: Databases

Simon Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward proposals to put her Department's Interception Modernisation Programme on a statutory footing; and if she will make a statement. [20464]

Nick Herbert: As was made clear in the strategic defence and security review, the Government will continue to build on an existing programme of work to preserve the ability of the law enforcement, security and intelligence agencies to obtain communications data and to intercept communications within the appropriate legal framework. We will legislate to ensure this is compatible with the Government's approach to civil liberties and use of communications capabilities. Details of this legislation will be announced in Parliament in due course.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan and Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many cases of post-traumatic stress disorder have been recorded among *(a)* Royal Marines and *(b)* army infantry soldiers who have served in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan. [22792]

Mr Robathan: The following table details the number of patients attending a Department of Community Mental Health (DCMH) initially assessed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) during the period 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2009. The figures reflect patients who have deployed as part of Op TELIC and/or Op HERRICK. Some Service personnel may have deployed to both theatres, hence the sub-totals exceed the overall total.

	Royal Marines	*Army Infantry*
Op TELIC and/or Op HERRICK	54	74
Op TELIC	21	49
Op HERRICK	50	47

These figures report only new attendances (and new episodes of care since July 2009) during the period, not all those who were receiving treatment. Equivalent verified data prior to 2007 are not available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Personnel deployment data relating to Afghanistan are not available prior to 14 October 2005. Therefore, it is possible that some patients reporting with PTSD, and who deployed prior to that date, have not been captured within these statistics.

This answer was produced using data from the Annual UK Armed Forces Mental Health Report which includes statistics on PTSD. This information can be found on the Defence Analytical Services and Advice (DASA) website under All Other Publications and Health/Medical Statistics.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 3 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 847-50W, on armed forces: investigations, if he will arrange for his response to be published in the *Official Report;* and when he plans to write to the hon. Member for Newport West. [23046]

Dr Fox: The records required to answer the hon. Member's questions are not held centrally and it will take time to identify and review them. I will write to the hon. Member once this work is completed and my response will be published in the *Official Report.*

Air Force: Military Bases

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the likely effects on his Department's airfields of the outcomes of the comprehensive spending review. [23205]

Mr Robathan: It will take some time to work out the implications of the strategic defence and security review for defence basing. The work is now under way, and we will fully consult all the relevant agencies and the local communities that have given so much support to our armed forces over the years, before any announcements are made.

Aircraft Carriers: Contracts

Mr Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will commission an inquiry into the negotiating process leading to the agreement of the *(a)* contracts to construct the new aircraft carriers and *(b)* the penalty clauses in those contracts. [19195]

Peter Luff: The contract for the aircraft carriers was related to the programme of work agreed when the previous Government entered into arrangements to sustain the ability to design and integrate complex warships in the UK. As such, the Government are not presently convinced that an inquiry into the negotiating process leading to the carrier contract is needed. We will be reviewing the future of the relevant sector strategy as part of the consultation process the Ministry of Defence will launch next month leading to a White Paper on Defence and Security Industry and Technology policy in spring 2011.

Armed Forces: Disciplinary Proceedings

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what rules govern the prosecution of military personnel accused of illegal attacks on civilians in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* foreign countries. [21824]

Nick Harvey: Within the UK, members of the armed forces are subject to general criminal law and service law (which in this respect is broadly the same as criminal law) and may be prosecuted through the civilian or military court system. For offences committed in the UK, there is a presumption in favour of a civilian trial if the victim is a civilian.

Every member of the regular forces is subject to service law at all times, wherever in the world they may be serving. Reserves are subject to service law, broadly speaking, when they are with the services wherever they are. The services' disciplinary system will operate effectively anywhere in the world. For offences against civilians abroad, the choice of jurisdiction between the service and local courts generally depends on agreements with the local jurisdiction. Where our armed forces are engaged in an armed conflict in a foreign state it will almost always be the case that the service courts will exercise jurisdiction.

Armed Forces: Food

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will take steps to increase the proportion of domestically produced food supplied to the armed forces. [20567]

Nick Harvey: European Union procurement legislation precludes public bodies from discriminating in favour of domestic products when procuring food and Ministry of Defence contractors are required to seek best value for money in the open market. However, where competitive, the MOD gives full consideration to procuring British produce. To this end regular and routine meetings are held between MOD and other Government Departments aimed at assisting British companies to better compete for MOD food contracts.

Armed Forces: Housing

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of the expenditure required to raise the standard of service accommodation in the Falkland Islands to levels required of service accommodation in the UK. [22128]

Mr Robathan: A posting to the Falkland Islands is not permanent (being a form of operational deployment) and although the service accommodation is recognised to be at a lower standard, it is still considered to be at an acceptable level and is graded and charged for accordingly.

If work were carried out to raise the standard of the accommodation in the Falkland Islands to the level expected in the UK, the cost to the public purse of the expenditure is estimated to be at least £85 million.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent assessment is of progress in the modernisation of service family accommodation. [22486]

Mr Robathan: This Government are committed to ensuring that service personnel and their families are housed in good quality, modern service family accommodation (SFA).

The ongoing upgrade and improvement programmes in the UK prioritises investment on a 'greatest needs first' basis. This year's upgrade programme, typically providing a new kitchen, bathroom, heating system and often a new roof and windows, will bring at least a further 800 SFA properties up to the highest standard for condition. In addition, around 4,000 properties will benefit from smaller-scale improvements such as new boilers, bathrooms, kitchens, loft insulation and double-glazing, which may not amount to a full upgrade but will deliver real lifestyle benefits to occupants.

Over 95% of surveyed properties in the UK are now at the top two standards for condition. Those properties at standard four (the lowest) are no longer routinely allocated to incoming families unless specifically requested, and properties at standard three will not be allocated from 2012.

Armed Forces: Medals

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what weighing is given to the time served on operational tours by territorial army soldiers when calculating the requirements for the volunteer reserves service medal. [22237]

Mr Robathan: Members of the reserves forces may be granted the Volunteer Reserves' Service Medal which is awarded to all ranks in recognition of long and efficient service. It is awarded for 10 years' exemplary service in the Royal Naval Reserve, Royal Marine Reserve, the Territorial Army and the Royal Auxiliary Air Force, and clasps are available for additional periods of five years. An individual receiving this award must be above reproach in respect of conduct and performance throughout their service. Reserve personnel who go on operational tours and meet the criteria are entitled to receive the medal that recognises that tour. Time spent on these duties will naturally accrue towards the 10 years' total service required.

Armed Forces: Northumberland

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of residents in *(a)* Wansbeck constituency and *(b)* Northumberland in each age group who were serving in the armed forces on the latest date for which figures are available. [22929]

Mr Robathan: As at 1 July 2010 there were 1,240 service personnel stationed in the Northumberland county council area.

Residential address information with reference to parliamentary constituency and age is not held.

Details of the number and stationed location of military personnel broken down by service, county, unitary authority and local authority area is produced by the Department as Tri Service Publication 10 which can be found at:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page=48&pubType=0&thiscontent=100&PublishTime=09:30:00&date=2010-08-26&disText=01%20Jul%202010&from=listing&topDate=2010-08-26

Copies are available in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Smallpox

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Ministry of Defence personnel are vaccinated against smallpox for the purposes of first response in the event of a biological attack. [21897]

Nick Harvey: In 2003, a cohort of 107 key medical and Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) specialist personnel were vaccinated against smallpox, in order that they could themselves act as vaccinators of further armed forces personnel in the event of an outbreak. In order to ensure that our future vaccination policy is based on an up-to-date, intelligence-informed assessment of the threat, a review of the Ministry of Defence's approach to smallpox vaccination is currently being undertaken.

Atomic Weapons Establishment

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brighton, Pavilion (Caroline Lucas) of 17 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 499W, on the Atomic Weapons Establishment, what reviews are currently underway at the Atomic Weapons Establishment. [21964]

Dr Fox: Reviews are being undertaken in the following areas: implementation of measures identified within the Strategic Defence and Security Review; the efficient and effective operation of the AWE contract; and, the future contracting strategies for future phases of the Nuclear Warhead Capability Sustainment Programme.

AWE Burghfield

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of his Department's expenditure on the re-kit programme for the nuclear warhead assembly/disassembly facility at the Atomic Weapons Establishment, Burghfield over the lifetime of the programme. [21975]

Peter Luff: Expenditure on the re-kit programme for the nuclear warhead assembly/disassembly facility at the Atomic Weapons Establishment, Burghfield, is estimated at £50 million over the lifetime of the programme.

BAE Systems

Mr Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many employees of BAE Systems were on secondment to his Department on 1 April 2010; and if he will make a statement. [17338]

Mr Robathan: The information requested is not held centrally and will take some time to collate. I shall write to the hon. Member with a substantive answer as soon as one is available.

Chief Coroner

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Justice on the likely effects of the implementation of the proposal to close the Chief Coroner's Office on the families of armed forces personnel who have died in active service. [23682]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 12 November 2010]*: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave on 8 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 9, to the hon. Member for Kingston upon Hull North (Diana Johnson).

Defence: Expenditure

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with his US counterpart on meeting the NATO target of spending 2% of gross domestic product on defence. [22794]

Dr Fox: I have had regular discussion with the US Secretary of Defence on the implications of the Strategic Defence and Security Review, including our continued ability to meet the NATO target for defence spending.

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the annual running costs are of *(a)* a Royal Marine commando unit and *(b)* an army infantry battalion. [22795]

Nick Harvey: The average annual running cost of a Royal Marine commando unit is £27.5 million. This includes military pay and allowances (including manpower costs of deployed Royal Marines), civilian pay and allowances, and other costs such as utilities, building maintenance, medical support, food, fuel and transport.

An army infantry battalion can either be an armoured, light or mechanised battalion. The average annual cost of an army infantry battalion is approximately £33 million: this includes military pay and allowances and other running costs, but excludes civilian manpower costs.

Departmental Early Retirement

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have been offered enhanced early retirement packages in each of the last three years. [22022]

Mr Robathan: Data on the number of offers of enhanced early retirement packages are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, the following table gives the number of enhanced early retirement packages that have been awarded over the last three financial years by the Ministry of Defence and its trading funds.

	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
MOD including agencies	1,260	610	390
Trading funds	50	50	70
Totals	1,310	660	460

Note:
All totals have been individually rounded to the nearest 10.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each of its Ministers in *(a)* September and *(b)* October 2010. [21777]

Dr Fox: On 13 and 26 September 2010 and 13 October 2010, the Under-Secretary of State for Defence, Lord Astor of Hever, who is Defence spokesman in the House of Lords hosted a meeting to brief other Members of the House of Lords and ex-service Chiefs on Defence issues. The total cost for these events were £45, £63 and £116 respectively.

Departmental Reviews

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what departmental policy reviews his Department has undertaken since 6 May 2010; on what date each such review *(a)* was announced and *(b)* is expected to publish its findings; what estimate he has made of the cost of each such review; who has been appointed to lead each such review; to what remuneration each review leader is entitled; how many (i) full-time equivalent civil servants and (ii) seconded staff are working on each such review; from which organisations such staff have been seconded; and how much on average such seconded staff will be paid for their work on the review. [21887]

Dr Fox: This information is not held centrally. I have tasked my Department to collate this information and I will write to the hon. Member with a full response as soon as this information is collated.

Falkland Islands

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the likely effects on his Department's operations in respect of the Falkland Islands of the outcomes of the spending review; and if he will make a statement. [22221]

Nick Harvey: The Government are unequivocally committed to the defence of the Falklands.

None of the decisions taken as part of the strategic defence and security review and associated spending review settlement will reduce our ability to deter or defend against an attack on the Falkland Islands.

Falkland Islands: Deployment

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has had discussions with the French Government on the possible deployment of aircraft carriers to the Falkland Islands. [22999]

Nick Harvey: There have been no discussions with the French Government on the possible deployment of aircraft carriers to the Falkland Islands because we have not seen this as necessary.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the chain of command is in respect of the deployment of aircraft carriers to the Falkland Islands. [23000]

Nick Harvey: While deployed in the Falkland Islands, a British ship would be under the operational command of the Permanent Joint Headquarters.

France: Nuclear Weapons

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many French Government personnel have visited *(a)* the Atomic Weapons Establishment and *(b)* HM Naval Base Clyde in (i) 2009 and (ii) 2010 to date; and which (A) staff of his Department and (B) AWE staff have visited French military nuclear establishments in each of those years. [22701]

Dr Fox: The number of French Government personnel who visited the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) and HM Naval Base (HMNB) Clyde in 2009 and 2010 to date is as follows:

	2009	*2010*
AWE	42	42
HMNB Clyde	67	22

The AWE figures include visits by Commissariat a l'Energie Atomique/ Direction des Applications Militaires (CEA/DAM) personnel, as CEA/DAM is the French Government's equivalent of AWE. The figures for HMNB Clyde exclude the French Navy Exchange Officer permanently attached to the staff of Flag Officer Sea Training (North) and the crews of visiting French naval vessels. French Government personnel involved in the joint operation (and associated training) of the NATO Submarine Rescue System based at the Clyde have been included.

Seventy AWE scientific, engineering and technical staff visited French military nuclear establishments in 2009, and 74 in 2010 to date. To attempt to identify those civilian and military personnel, across the Department (including members of the armed forces), who have also made such visits would incur a disproportionate cost, as this information is not held centrally or in the format requested.

Institute for Fiscal Studies

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on services provided by the Institute for Fiscal Studies in each of the last 10 years. [23391]

Mr Robathan: There are no contracts recorded on the MOD's Financial Management Shared Service Centre (FMSSC) contracts database for the Institute for Fiscal Studies for any of the last 10 years.

Low Flying

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many operational low flying passes were flown in *(a)* low flying area 7 (T), *(b)* low flying area 14 (T) and *(c)* low flying area 20 (T) for each (i) aircraft type and (ii) mission duration in each year since 2004; and from which airbase the flights originated. [22952]

Nick Harvey: The statistics for the amount of military low flying carried out in the UK Military Low Flying System is recorded in hours rather than by the number of passes or sorties, as this is deemed to be more representative of the level of activity within the system. Data are recorded by the training year (April to March) rather than by calendar year. The figures for the training year 2010-11 will be published in the next statement on the pattern of military low flying that will be available in the House in summer 2011.

The majority of operational low flying is conducted by fast-jet aircraft, with a lesser amount being conducted by C-130 Hercules aircraft based at RAF Lyneham. Operational low flying is not conducted by rotary wing aircraft. In 2004, fast-jet aircraft conducting operational low flying were the Jaguar based at RAF Coltishall, the Harrier based at RAF Cottesmore, and the Tornado GR4 based at RAF Marham and RAF Lossiemouth. Since 2004, the Jaguar has been retired from service, and in 2010 fast-jet operational low flying is only conducted by the Harrier and Tornado GR4.

Prior to 2010, records were maintained by a manual system that enabled the total amount of operational low flying to be calculated for each tactical training area. These figures are primarily used to regulate the total amount of operational low flying conducted according to the relative size of each tactical training area, and also to enable a year-on-year comparison of this training activity. To ascertain the level of detail requested regarding aircraft type, individual sortie duration and the airbase of origin would require a detailed review of each squadron's authorisation paperwork over the requested period, and would incur disproportionate cost.

From 2010, a system has been developed to enable manual data returns from each squadron to be recorded electronically to produce more detailed statistics. This system will be first-used in the next publication of low flying statistics in summer 2011.

The information which follows reflects the actual amount of operational low flying carried out between 100 and 250 feet within 7T, 14T and 20T, the tactical training areas in mid-Wales, northern Scotland and southern Scotland/Anglo-Scottish border area.

		Hours	*Minutes*
2003-04	LFA 7T	32	12
	LFA 14T	197	40
	LFA 20T	278	11
2004-05	LFA 7T	27	5
	LFA 14T	138	7
	LFA 20T	209	8
2005-06	LFA 7T	13	49
	LFA 14T	161	48
	LFA 20T	202	53
2006-07	LFA 7T	14	30
	LFA 14T	161	11
	LFA 20T	179	35
2007-08	LFA 7T	18	30
	LFA 14T	76	32
	LFA 20T	96	4
2008-09	LFA 7T	15	35
	LFA 14T	63	46
	LFA 20T	46	54
2009-10	LFA 7T	30	37
	LFA 14T	117	20
	LFA 20T	160	56

Military Bases

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make an assessment of the effects on the local economy of the US base at RAF Menwith Hill; and if he will make a statement. [23659]

Nick Harvey: The most recent assessment of the local economic impact of RAF Menwith Hill estimated that the Base contributes in the order of £130 million per year to the local economy.

Military Exercises

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 300W, AWE Management: emergencies, whether the Royal Berkshire Hospital participated in the Aldex 10 emergency exercise. [22699]

Peter Luff: The Aldex 10 emergency exercise tested emergency response arrangements in place for the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) sites. The exercise took place on 10 November 2010.

West Berkshire council had responsibility for this exercise, which had a wide range of participants. The Royal Berkshire Hospital played an important role in emergency planning for AWE and participated in Aldex 10.

Nuclear Weapons

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to secure a supply of tritium for Trident nuclear warheads to cover the period until the current warhead design reaches the end of its planned life; and whether the ability to secure a supply of tritium is recorded as a risk for the defence nuclear programme in his Department's risk register. [22698]

Dr Fox: This information is being withheld for the purpose of safeguarding national security.

Nuclear Weapons: Finance

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what expenditure his Department has incurred on the Nuclear Weapons Capability Sustainment Programme in each year since the programme's inception; and what estimate he has made of such expenditure in each remaining year of the programme. [21972]

Dr Fox: The Nuclear Warhead Capability Sustainment Programme (NWCSP) began in 2005 following the announcement by the then Secretary of State for Defence on 19 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 59WS, of increased funding to the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE).

Expenditure since 2005-06, and the provisional figure for the current financial year is as follows:

	£ million at outturn prices
2005-06	493
2006-07	687
2007-08	894
2008-09	800
2009-10	870
2010-11	[1]932

[1] Provisional

Since 1 April 2008, financial planning for AWE has made no distinction between management and operation costs and those associated with the NWCSP.

Future planned expenditure at AWE will be subject to cost savings measures identified in the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR). Release of further details may prejudice the Ministry of Defence's negotiating position with its commercial suppliers and final savings figures will depend on detailed SDSR-related implementation. The MOD is therefore not prepared to release further financial information at this time.

Operation Phoenix

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make an assessment of the purposes of Operation Phoenix activities at the US base at RAF Menwith Hill. [23657]

Nick Harvey: Project Phoenix is the name given to the demolition and replacement of one of the original operations buildings at RAF Menwith Hill. Construction works are estimated to be completed by June 2011.

Trident

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence until what date the Atomic Weapons Establishment has been tasked to guarantee the reliability of the Trident warhead arsenal. [21973]

Dr Fox: We announced in the strategic defence and security review that a replacement warhead is not required until at least the late 2030s, with a decision on replacing the existing warhead deferred until the next parliament. The Atomic Weapons Establishment is, therefore, undertaking the required stockpile certification work to support the warhead arsenal until the late 2030s.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the sale to the private sector of facilities at Coulport for *(a)* the storage of Trident warheads, *(b)* the processing of Trident warheads, *(c)* the storage of Trident missiles and *(d)* operations at the explosives handling jetty. [22136]

Dr Fox: There are no current plans to sell any Trident warhead or missile, handling, storage, processing or ammunitioning facilities at Royal Naval Armament Depot Coulport.

Since July 2008, the Department has been assessing options on how best to provide elements of Strategic Weapons Systems support at Coulport in the future. One option under review is to engage with an experienced service provider from the private sector to deliver processing, storage and handling activities at Coulport.

On current plans a decision is expected in early 2011. Irrespective of the outcome, Coulport will remain under the ownership and control of the Ministry of Defence. The safety, security and effectiveness of the UK's strategic deterrent remains paramount.

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the likely cost to the public purse of Trident replacement following an Initial Gate Decision in the *(a)* present and *(b)* next Parliament. [22376]

Dr Fox: The 2006 White Paper 'The Future of the UK's Nuclear Deterrent' set out the initial total procurement cost of the replacement nuclear deterrent as £15 billion to £20 billion in 2006-07 prices. The likely expenditure is dependent on the decision on Initial Gate which we expect in the next few weeks. I intend to update Parliament on progress, including costs, after the Initial Gate decision through the publication of a report.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will commission research into the incidence of combat stress in operators of unmanned aerial vehicles. [21702]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence takes seriously the mental health of all armed forces personnel, and a local study of the psychological health of unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) pilots is currently in progress. Historically, the RAF Medical Services have not detected any instances of acute stress reaction in any pilot responsible for operation of UAVs.

Warships

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with the First Sea Lord on the Royal Navy's capacity to fulfil current commitments with a surface fleet of 19 ships. [21771]

Dr Fox: The full range of issues associated with the Strategic Defence and Security Review, including the capacity of the Royal Navy to fulfil current commitments, were discussed in the Defence Strategy Group, which included all Ministry of Defence Ministers, the Chief of Defence Staff, the Permanent Under-Secretary and all the Chiefs of Staff among others.

The surface fleet will remain able to deliver a full spectrum of maritime capabilities ranging from full scale warfare to providing maritime security and projecting UK influence.

Yorkshire Regiment

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons the role of Pioneer has been removed from the 4th Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment. [22236]

Mr Robathan: The role of Assault Pioneer has been suspended in all Territorial Army (TA) Infantry Units. TA battalions will continue to man and train TA Infantrymen in their primary role as Riflemen but will not train them for this additional role. This measure has been taken because the operational requirement is for Riflemen, not Assault Pioneers.

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Interns

Luciana Berger: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, how many interns have been employed by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority since its creation; what *(a)* pay and *(b)* expenses they received; and what duties they carried out. [24238]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald, dated October 2010:

As Interim Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many interns have been employed by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority since its creation; what (a) pay and (b) expenses they received; and what duties they carried out.

IPSA has not employed any interns.

PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Responsibilities: Urban Areas

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Prime Minister whether he has assigned Ministers responsibility for cities in England. [22970]

The Prime Minister: These appointments will be announced shortly.

Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr Watson: To ask the Prime Minister (1) whether any special advisers have been disciplined by *(a)* the Prime Minister and *(b)* his Chief of Staff since 28 October 2010; and if he will make a statement; [23834]

(2) what discussions the Chief of Staff to the Prime Minister has had on the conduct of special advisers since 28 October 2010; and if he will make a statement. [23830]

The Prime Minister: Special advisers are bound by the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Security

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the budget was of Transport Security and Contingencies in his Department for 2010-11; and what that budget is expected to be in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13 and *(c)* 2013-14. [22483]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 8 November 2010]:* The budget dedicated to Transport Security and Contingencies in 2010-11 was £28.7 million. It is expected to fall by around 25% over the period of the spending review. During this time, the Department for Transport is expecting to transfer certain functions to the Civil Aviation Authority, at which point the costs of delivering these functions will be recovered from the aviation industry.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many personnel at each grade work for Transport Security and Contingencies in his Department; and how many he expects there to be at each grade in *(a)* April 2011, *(b)* April 2012, *(c)* April 2013 and *(d)* April 2014. [22484]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 8 November 2010]:* The Central Department and its Agencies identified the following number of permanent staff working in Transport Security and Contingencies as at 31 October 2010:

Pay band	*Transport Security and Contingencies*
AA	0.0
AO	16.0
EO	21.6
HEO	101.6
SEO	43.0
Grade 7	23.8
Grade 6	6.0
SCS	5.0
Total	217.0

Note:

Based on full time equivalent (FTE) figures which indicates the number of positions, including part time posts, rather than number of individuals.

The Department is in the process of reviewing its structure in light of the Government spending review. Future staff numbers will be determined as part of that process.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what volume of air freight entering the UK was carried by *(a)* known consignors and *(b)* carriers that are not known consignors in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [22581]

Mr Philip Hammond: The UK only recognises known consignors from the Republic of Ireland (through an extant MOU) and since April 2010 from EU member states, provided that they have been successfully validated within the last 12 months. The Department for Transport does not hold any specific statistical data on how much air freight arrives in the UK from known consignors but it will represent a very small percentage of the total.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he has taken to secure international agreement on increasing levels of security for air cargo. [22582]

Mr Philip Hammond: Within Europe, common rules on civil aviation security are set out in legislation. A new set of detailed baseline standards, strengthening requirements in a number of areas, including cargo, applied from the end of April this year. My officials have met and are working closely with our EU partners to consider whether these rules need amending in light of the 29 October cargo bomb incidents. The UK has also called on the European Commission to advance work already under way in relation to aviation security screening requirements for cargo coming into and moving through Europe.

In addition, my officials are working closely with the International Civil Aviation Organisation. We have taken an active role in promoting Amendment 12 to Annex 17 of the Chicago Convention which we expect the ICAO Council to adopt in mid-November. This will strengthen cargo security requirements worldwide. We are also working with ICAO and its member states to devise and promote the next steps towards further enhancement of international cargo security.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what inspection regime his Department has put in place in respect of third party bodies responsible for screening freight shipped by companies who are not known consignors; [22583]

(2) what mechanism his Department has put in place to ensure that screening of freight shipped by companies who are not known consignors is adequate. [22584]

Mr Philip Hammond: The UK cargo regime is subject to inspection by aviation security compliance inspectors to ensure that entities regulated by the Department for Transport are applying the screening procedures in accordance with directions imposed on them under the National Aviation Security Programme. This includes regular unscheduled inspections.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance his Department issues to third parties responsible for screening freight on the *(a)* equipment to be used in, *(b)* frequency of and *(c)* thoroughness of the screening process. [22585]

Mr Philip Hammond: Directions are made by the Department for Transport under the Aviation Security Act 1982 and issued to directed parties. EU baseline standards for freight screening are contained within Regulation (EC) 300/2008. The UK adds more stringent security measures which are contained within the Single Consolidated Direction (Aviation) 2010. This document is sent to the industry along with the European regulations. For security reasons we do not provide detailed information on the content of this Direction.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport who is responsible for screening freight handled by freight companies who are not known consignors. [22586]

Mr Philip Hammond: Freight can only be screened and secured for air transport by regulated cargo agents who have been inspected and approved by the Department for Transport. Once approval is granted, they can apply screening measures in accordance with the requirements laid down in extant legislation and are subject to "no notice" inspections by Department for Transport inspectors.

Freight which arrives at an airline cannot fly until it can be proved that it has had suitable and effective security measures applied to it elsewhere. Freight must be kept secure between the point of screening and arrival at the airport. If this is not possible then it and effective controls applied before it can fly.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport who carries out audits of known consignors of air cargo on behalf of his Department. [22587]

Mr Philip Hammond: The annual validations of known consignors are carried out by independent validators who are recruited and trained by the Department for Transport.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) for what period of time a known consignor of air cargo retains its trusted status before it is reviewed; [22588]

(2) how frequently audits are carried out on behalf of his Department to determine whether known consignors of air cargo are to retain their status; [22589]

(3) what requirements there are for inspection of the security arrangements of air cargo agents after they have been designated as known consignors. [22590]

Mr Philip Hammond: Following the initial validation by an independent cargo validator which lasts for 12 months, the Department for Transport undertakes a programme to independently revalidate known consignors on a 12 monthly cycle. This revalidation is carried out by an independent validator different from the one who performed the initial validation. The same validator can not be used in successive years.

Regulated air cargo agents (who are a different category from known consignors) have been inspected and approved by the Department for Transport. Once approval is granted, they are subject to "no notice" inspections by Department for Transport inspectors.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which air cargo agents are designated as known consignors. [22591]

Mr Philip Hammond: Air cargo agents cannot be designated as known consignors. To be a known consignor a company has to prove to an independent validator that it falls into one of the following categories:

The first category is the producer. They must be able to prove that they have produced the item in such a way that, without the use of any screening techniques, there is assurance that it cannot contain any prohibited article, for example a company which produces an item from raw materials.

The second category is the distributor. An example of this is someone who receives identical merchandise from a producer and selects from this the amount necessary to fill an order. Providing the consignor can prove to the validator that the supplier of the stock would have no idea who the end customer was or how it would get there, the cargo is considered untargetable and thus the consignor can "originate" it.

If the consignor wants to send cargo out he will often engage a freight agent who will undertake the paperwork, book the space on the truck or plane and sort out any customs procedures—so cargo agents can never be a known consignor as they can only handle other peoples' cargo and they never "originate" any of their own.

A public list of regulated air cargo agents is available on the Department for Transport website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/security/aviation/listofdftregulatedagents

These are air cargo agents who have applied to be regulated by the Department for Transport and are subject to legally binding directions from the Secretary of State. They have the authorisation to apply security measures to cargo which enables cargo to pass more quickly and economically to the airline.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department requires freight companies to take to establish whether packages submitted for shipping contain toner cartridges. [22614]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 8 November 2010]:* Directions and guidance on the prohibition of the carriage of ink and toner cartridges by air have been sent to the aviation industry. It is for the industry to take the necessary steps to ensure compliance.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the statement by the Home Secretary on 1 November 2010, *Official Report,* column 633, on the aviation security incident, which companies and industry bodies were invited to the meeting he chaired in the week of 1 November 2010 on aviation security; and on what date that meeting took place. [22615]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 8 November 2010]:* The meeting mentioned in the Home Secretary's statement took place on Thursday 4 November. The companies and organisations in the list were invited to the meeting.

TNT
Fedex
DHL
UPS
Virgin
British Airways
BMI
BAR-UK (Board of Airline Representatives)
British Air Transport Association
Gatwick Airport
Manchester Airports Group
Birmingham Airport
BAA
Airport Operators Association
Royal Mail
Home Office
TUI
Easyjet
British International Freight Association

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance he has issued to companies on the steps to be taken to comply with the prohibition on the carriage of toner cartridges larger than 500 grams by air cargo into, via or from the UK unless they originate from a known consignor; and from what date such guidance is to have effect. [22616]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 8 November 2010]:* Directions and guidance on the prohibition of the carriage of ink and toner cartridges by air have been sent to the aviation industry. This prohibition came into force at 00:01 hours on Tuesday 2 November. It is for those subject to the Directions to determine how to ensure compliance with them within their own operators.

Ministers and officials will be meeting with senior representatives of the air cargo industry over the coming weeks to determine future cargo security strategy.

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the extent of the threat to aircraft from malicious software. [23008]

Mr Philip Hammond: We are aware of this potential vulnerability and, as with all possible threat scenarios, we keep this threat under review, working in conjunction with other Government experts and industry.

British Transport Police: Schools

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with the chief constable of British Transport Police on the role of British Transport police in schools. [23588]

Mrs Villiers: Department for Transport Ministers have not discussed the subject with the British Transport police. The force is nevertheless heavily involved with schools through both specific programmes such as their project on tackling knife and violence project and on a day to day basis when dealing with anti-social behaviour and other local issues.

Bus Services: Concessions

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the likely effect on *(a)* average bus fares and *(b)* the number of bus services of the proposed 20 per cent. reduction in the Bus Service Operators Grant (i) nationally and (ii) in London. [19794]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 26 October 2010]:* We estimate that the potential increase in average fares and average reduction in bus services, as a direct result of the 20% reduction to the Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG), would be around 1.5%. In practice, the effect will depend on the commercial decisions of bus operators and, where relevant, local authorities and Transport for London.

I spoke to the Confederation of Passenger Transport UK, who represent the bus industry, following the Chancellor's announcement on 20 October. They were hopeful that, in general, the small reduction in BSOG could be absorbed without fares having to rise.

Cycling

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the effect on the level of cycling of the *(a)* Bikeability, *(b)* Cycling Towns and Cities and *(c)* Finding New Solutions Cycling England programmes. [20196]

Norman Baker: In 2009, the Department for Transport commissioned an independent evaluation of the Cycling City and Towns programme, which includes infrastructure investment, cycle training (Bikeability), and other measures to encourage more people to cycle more often, and more safely. The evaluation is scheduled to run until 2012, with final results available in 2012-13.

Results from preliminary evaluation of the original six cycling demonstration towns (CDTs) are available. They have shown changes in the levels of cycling and physical activity in CDTs across a range of indicators, including a one percentage point increase in the proportion of people cycling for 30 minutes at least three times a week, and a 27% increase in levels of cycling as measured by automatic cycle counts. These findings strongly suggest that cycling levels were increasing in the CDTs three years after the initiative began, with some evidence that similar increases were not occurring in comparable areas.

The "Finding New Solutions" projects are a number of small programmes looking at other types of journeys people could make by bike: to work, for leisure and to and from railway stations. All of the projects are due to conclude at the end of March 2011. Data are being collected as the projects progress, and evaluation will be undertaken once they are completed.

Departmental Manpower

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* staff numbers and *(b)* expenditure on staff costs as a proportion of their 2010-11 budget is for each agency sponsored by his Department. [19851]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 27 October 2010]*: The following table shows *(a)* the staff numbers and *(b)* expenditure on staff costs as a proportion of the 2010-11 budget for each agency sponsored by the Department for Transport.

The staff numbers are the 2009-10 figures as published in the 2009-10 Department for Transport resource accounts.

	Staff numbers	*Staff expenditure as percentage of budget*
DVLA	5,906	30.44
DSA	2,525	44.00
HA	3,747	2.68
VOSA	2,444	43.60
MCA	1,157	32.40
VCA	139	51.00
GCDA	310	55.52

If the Highways Agency figure appears to be low, this is because Highways Agency has a very large programme budget in excess of £4 billion due to the number of major projects the agency manages.

Departmental Pay

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was paid to officials in his Department and its non-departmental public bodies in bonuses and other payments in addition to salary in each year since 1997; how many officials received such payments; and what the monetary values was of the largest 20 payments made in each such year. [18719]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport was established following machinery of government changes on 29 May 2002. Details of costs for the period prior to 2002 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The amount paid to officials in the Department for Transport including its seven Executive agencies, and its non-departmental public bodies in non-consolidated performance pay and other payments in addition to salary in each year since 2003 is shown in the following table:

	Amount paid (£)
2003-04[1]	2,093,576
2004-05[2]	1,976,838
2005-06	8,323,678
2006-07	10,867,163
2007-08	9,446,901
2008/-9	11,744,001
2009/-0	12,380,715

[1] These figures do not include SCS or Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency as these figures could not be provided without breaching the disproportionate cost threshold.

[2] These figures do not include Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency as these figures could not be provided without breaching the disproportionate cost threshold.

We are not able to break the data down to identify the number of officials who received these payments without breaching the disproportionate cost threshold.

The largest 20 payments made to officials in the Department for Transport including its seven Executive agencies, and its non-departmental public bodies, in each such year since 2003 are shown in the following table:

							£
Rank	*2003-04*[1]	*2004-05*[2]	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
1	1,500	8,500	8,500	12,500	20,000	22,000	15,000
2	785	8,500	7,500	10,500	20,000	20,500	12,500
3	732	8,500	7,500	10,500	15,000	20,000	12,500
4	500	8,500	7,500	10,500	15,000	19,000	12,500
5	500	7,500	7,500	10,500	15,000	17,000	12,500
6	500	7,500	7,500	10,500	15,000	15,000	12,500

£

Rank	2003-04[1]	2004-05[2]	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
7	500	7,500	7,500	10,500	15,000	15,000	12,500
8	500	7,500	7,500	10,500	15,000	15,000	12,500
9	450	7,500	7,500	10,500	15,000	15,000	12,500
10	450	6,500	7,500	10,500	15,000	15,000	12,500
11	450	6,500	6,592	10,500	10,000	15,000	12,500
12	450	6,500	6,500	9,000	10,000	15,000	12,500
13	450	6,500	6,500	8,500	10,000	14,000	12,500
14	450	6,500	6,500	8,500	10,000	14,000	10,000
15	450	6,500	6,500	8,500	10,000	14,000	10,000
16	450	6,500	6,500	8,500	10,000	13,615	10,000
17	450	6,500	6,500	8,500	10,000	12,770	10,000
18	450	6,500	6,500	8,500	10,000	12,500	10,000
19	450	1,000	6,500	8,500	10,000	12,500	10,000
20	450	1,000	6,500	8,500	10,000	12,000	10,000

[1] No SCS or Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency payments are included as providing this information would breach the disproportionate cost threshold.

[2] No Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency payments are included as providing this information would breach the disproportionate cost threshold.

Electric Vehicles

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on encouraging the use of electric vehicles. [22412]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport is keen to encourage the development and uptake of electric vehicles.

The spending review announced provision of over £400 million for measures promoting the uptake of ultra-low emission vehicle technologies. These measures include:

> support for consumer incentives for electric and other ultra-low emission cars throughout the life of this Parliament. The Secretary of State has already announced details of the Plug-In Car Grant, which, from January 2011, will reduce the upfront cost of eligible cars by 25% capped at £5,000. Available across the UK, the scheme will be open to both private consumers and business buyers. We will continue to monitor the most effective way to deliver support for consumer incentives, with the first review of the Plug-In Car Grant taking place in 2012;
>
> continued investment in electric vehicle recharging infrastructure through the 'Plugged in Places' scheme. The Government are committed to mandating a national recharging network for electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles. Data derived from the Plugged-In Places programme will inform the design of a national network; and
>
> further investment in research and development activities supporting this next generation of vehicle technologies.

EU Efficiency Standards: Cars

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many representations he has received from oil companies regarding proposed EU efficiency standards for cars and vans; which companies made such representations; and what the content of the representations was. [23113]

Norman Baker: No representations have been received from oil companies regarding the proposed EU new van CO_2 regulation or the existing EU new car CO_2 regulation.

Great Western Railway

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate he made of the cost to the public purse of maintaining the railway line connecting Exeter and Plymouth. [20649]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 9 November 2010]:* The Government's High Level Output Specification sets the overall context for spending on the railway, but the maintenance of the railway is the responsibility of Network Rail. While Network Rail's accounts are scrutinised by the independent Office of Rail Regulation, the company does not currently provide information at the level of detail requested.

GRIP 4 Rail Studies

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many GRIP 4 rail studies his Department *(a)* started and *(b)* completed in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [22295]

Mrs Villiers: The GRIP project development process is a delivery tool used by Network Rail. My hon. Friend may wish to contact Network Rail's acting chief executive at the following address for a response to his question:

Peter Henderson
Acting Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London
N1 9AG.

High Speed Two

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what arrangements he plans to make for consultation on the route of High Speed Two. [20849]

Mr Philip Hammond: As set out in the Department for Transport's recently published Business Plan, the Government propose to consult on its strategy for high speed rail and on its proposed route for an initial line from London to the West Midlands between February and July 2011.

Subject to the outcome of next year's consultation, the Government plan to consult on detailed routes for the second phase of the proposed high speed network, from Birmingham to Manchester and Birmingham to Leeds, in 2014.

Large Goods Vehicles: Accidents

Mr Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the incidence of the involvement of *(a)* foreign-registered and *(b)* all heavy goods vehicles in road traffic accidents in the latest period for which figures are available. [24088]

Mike Penning: The information requested can be found in table 53 on page 179 of "Reported Road Casualties Great Britain 2009", a copy of which is available in the Libraries of the House.

Large Goods Vehicles: Inspections

Mr Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward proposals for road worthiness inspections of foreign road haulage vehicles entering and leaving the UK. [24087]

Mike Penning: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) already inspects a large number of foreign heavy goods vehicles (HGVs), both at ports of entry and at the roadside. In the year to 31 March 2010, VOSA conducted 99,508 roadworthiness checks on foreign-registered HGVs, an increase of more than 60% compared to 2008-09.

Motor Vehicles: Testing

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what plans he has for the future of the MOT test; and if he will make a statement; [16955]

(2) what plans he has to review the effectiveness of the MOT test system. [17719]

Mike Penning *[holding answers 13 and 18 October 2010]:* I intend to review the MOT test scheme, using the latest information available. However, the Department for Transport has no specific proposals at this stage and no preconceptions about the outcome. The aim of the review will be to strike the right balance between vehicle safety and the burden imposed on motorists by MOT test requirements.

I expect to make an announcement about the timing and scope of the review in due course and there will be an opportunity for anyone with an interest to contribute to the debate.

National Aviation Security Committee

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Statement by the Home Secretary on 1 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 633, on the aviation security incident, whether he has *(a)* met and *(b)* plans to meet the National Aviation Security Committee on any occasion other than the high level industry meeting in the week of 1 November 2010. [22617]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 8 November 2010]:* I have not met the National Aviation Security Committee. Several of the members of that Committee attended the high level industry meeting I held on 4 November 2010.

The National Aviation Security Committee is next due to meet on 29 November 2010 and the Minister of State for Transport will be chairing this meeting on my behalf.

Network Rail: Public Footpaths

Ben Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether Network Rail plans to make formal arrangements for public access to the footpath it owns between Bourne park and Halifax road in respect of its location on Sustrans National Cycle Route 1. [23644]

Mrs Villiers: This is an operational matter for Network Rail as the owner and operator of the national rail network. My hon. Friend should contact Network Rail's acting chief executive at the following address for a response to his question:

Peter Henderson
Acting Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London, N1 9AG.

Railways: Carbon Emissions

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the carbon dioxide emissions arising from High Speed 2 in circumstances in which it is operational at the train numbers and maintenance requirement levels referred to in the High Speed 2 report to his Department. [19970]

Mr Philip Hammond: The overall level of carbon dioxide emissions from HS2 will depend critically on the carbon intensity of electricity generation at the time the railway became operational. The Government will seek to maximise potential carbon savings. HS2 Ltd calculate that the central case of the impact of the line on carbon emissions will be a reduction of 4.6 million tonnes of CO_2 over the 60-year appraisal period, within a range of a reduction of 25 million tonnes to an increase of 26.6 million tonnes. This information is available in HS2 Ltd's main report, published in March 2010, and available at:

www.dft.gov.uk/highspeedrail

Railways: Finance

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which rail capacity improvements he expects to fund as a result of proposed changes to the regulated rail fares formula. [19849]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 27 October 2010]:* The Government are committed to investment in Britain's railways and the comprehensive spending review announcement set out plans for the investment of £18 billion in rail. Raising the cap on regulated fares helps ensure that investment in rail can go forward during a period when the pressing need to tackle the deficit means that resources are constrained. Further announcements about specific investment in rail projects will be made in due course.

Railways: North West

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what timetable he has set for the planned rail electrification between Manchester, Liverpool, Preston and Blackpool foreseen in the outcome of the comprehensive spending review. [21283]

Mrs Villiers: On 20 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 963, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced that electrification of the lines between Manchester, Liverpool, Preston and Blackpool would go ahead. We are working with Network Rail to determine the timetable for the completion of these schemes, and will make an announcement in due course.

Railways: Stoke-on-Trent

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward proposals for a direct high-speed rail link between London and Stoke-on-Trent. [22575]

Mr Philip Hammond: On 4 October, I wrote to HS2 Ltd to confirm that it should continue to develop detailed route proposals for a high speed line from the west midlands to Manchester. A copy of my letter is available on the HS2 website at:

www.hs2.org.uk

In taking forward this work, the company will consider the case for intermediate stations between the two major conurbations. I have asked the company to report to me on its findings by December 2011.

Railways: Vale of Glamorgan

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for *(a)* improvements and *(b)* funding for improvements to the Vale of Glamorgan railway line. [22297]

Mrs Villiers: The provision of Vale of Glamorgan train services is a matter for the Welsh Assembly Government.

Funding for major rail investments on the Barry to Cardiff line has been confirmed and work is proceeding. This investment will provide both increased line capacity and additional station platforms at Cardiff Queen Street and Cardiff Central by 2015, which will benefit the Vale of Glamorgan route.

Trams: Nottingham

Anna Soubry: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what criteria he plans to use to assess whether his Department's contribution to the proposed private finance initiative funding of the extensions to the Nottingham Tram system is affordable. [21019]

Norman Baker: The Government have announced their intention to support the Nottingham Express Transit Phase 2 PFI project, subject to affordability. The Department for Transport is now working closely with Nottingham city council to progress the scheme on an affordable basis. This could include making efficiency savings to the project itself or through an increase in local funding contributions, or a combination of both of these. The Council is currently developing a range of options for further consideration. The Department is determined to ensure that every pound of departmental funding spent on transport projects yields the maximum benefit.

Transport: Schools

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 9 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 282-83W, on schools: transport, how many school travel advisers funded by his Department there are in each local authority area. [24247]

Norman Baker: Together with the Department for Education, the Department for Transport has provided sufficient funding through area-based grants in each of the past six years to enable local authorities in England to employ about 250 full-time equivalent school travel advisers (STAs).

However, we do not know how many STAs are employed in each local authority area and this information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Crown Prosecution Service: Personnel

Mr Umunna: To ask the Attorney-General how many staff were employed at each grade in the Crown Prosecution Service in each year since 2005. [24039]

The Attorney-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) employed the following numbers of staff at the grades shown for the years 2005-10:

CPS grade	*CS grade*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
A1	AA	915	970	927	755	335	260
A2	AO	1,803	1,927	2,036	1,914	2,256	2,280
B1	EO	1,651	1,655	1,698	1,809	1,777	1,849
B2	HEO	608	637	771	837	411	447
Associate Prosecutor	HEO	—	—	—	—	447	466
B3	SEO	113	108	123	127	157	186
C1	SEO	320	252	187	—	—	—
Crown Prosecutor	SEO	—	—	—	120	107	80

CPS grade	*CS grade*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
C2	G7	1,995	2,174	2,336	—	—	—
Senior Crown Prosecutor	G7	—	—	—	1,855	1,662	1,643
Crown Advocate	G7	—	—	—	538	853	880
D	G7	431	446	474	467	426	453
E	G6	149	147	153	146	146	199
Senior Crown Advoc.	G6	—	—	—	10	28	42
Principal Crown Advoc.	G6	—	—	—	5	6	10
Chief Crown Prosecutor	SCS	49	49	43	52	49	50
SCS (inc. G1 Perm. Secretary)	SCS	27	28	29	30	33	37
Total		8,061	8,393	8,777	8,665	8,693	8,882

Mr Umunna: To ask the Attorney-General what the attrition rate was of Crown Prosecution Service employees in each of the last three years. [24041]

The Attorney-General: The annual attrition rate for Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) employees for each of the last three years, covering the period October to September for each respective year is shown in the following table.

	%
2008	9.66
2009	7.65
2010	9.68

Institute for Fiscal Studies

Robert Halfon: To ask the Attorney-General how much the Law Officer's Departments spent on services provided by the Institute for Fiscal Studies in each of the last 10 years. [23404]

The Attorney-General: There has been no expenditure made by the Law Officer's Departments on such services during the last 10 years.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Benefit: Lone Income

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many single income families with a household income between £43,875 and £50,000 are in receipt of child benefit in respect of *(a)* one child, *(b)* two children, *(c)* three children and *(d)* four or more children. [17922]

Mr Gauke: I have been asked to reply.

In 2010-11 it is estimated that there were 40,000 families with a single income between £43,875 and £50,000 in receipt of child benefit.

The split between numbers of children is not available.

Children: Maintenance

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress has been made in transferring clients of the Child Support Agency under the pre-2002 scheme to the current scheme; and if he will make a statement. [23497]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to my hon. Friend with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress has been made in transferring clients of the Child Support Agency under the pre-2002 scheme to the current scheme; and if he will make a statement. [23497]

The problems encountered by the Child Support Agency following the launch of the Reforms in 2003 resulted in a decision to defer the bulk transfer of cases from the old scheme (launched in 1993), to the current scheme (launched in 2003). In the meantime, cases are only migrated from the old computer system to the new computer system where they had a link with a case on the new system that made this necessary.

This decision was kept under review and in February 2006 the previous Government asked Sir David Henshaw to review the entire system of child maintenance. His subsequent report led to the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act 2008, which makes provision for a new system of child maintenance known as the "future scheme".

The Government continues to develop plans for a future scheme that is intended to replace both the existing schemes. As set out in the Department for Work and Pensions' business plan, the Government is currently considering the scope of existing plans for child maintenance and future delivery and this stage of work will last until February 2011.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Disability Benefits: East Lothian

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in East Lothian constituency receive *(a)* disability living allowance, *(b)* incapacity benefit and *(c)* employment and support allowance. [24251]

Maria Miller: The information available is in the table.

Claimants of employment support allowance, disability living allowance and incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance, East Lothian parliamentary constituency

Benefit	*Number*
Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance	3,490

Claimants of employment support allowance, disability living allowance and incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance, East Lothian parliamentary constituency

Benefit	*Number*
Disability living allowance (in payment)	5,300
Employment and support allowance	710

Notes:
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. For disability living allowance the totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance.
3. A claimant can be in receipt of more than one of these benefits and will therefore be counted for each benefit they receive.
4. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment support allowance from October 2008.
5. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study as at February 2010.

Disability Living Allowance: Care Homes

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many recipients of disability living allowance of each sex who were in residential care were in receipt of *(a)* the mobility component at the (i) higher and (ii) lower rate and *(b)* the care component at the (A) higher, (B) middle and (C) lower rate in 2009-10. [23030]

Maria Miller: Reliable estimates of total Disability Living Allowance claimants in residential care homes are not available as we are unable to identify accurately DLA claimants who meet the full cost of their residential care.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people in residential homes and colleges in *(a)* each Parliamentary constituency, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* England, *(d)* Wales and *(e)* Northern Ireland who will be affected by the proposed removal of the mobility element of disability living allowance; and what estimate he has made of the average reduction in payments to such individuals. [23075]

Maria Miller: Reliable estimates of disability living allowance claimants in residential care homes are not available other than on a Great Britain wide basis. Information for Northern Ireland cannot be provided as social security is a devolved matter for Northern Ireland and the Northern Ireland Assembly. We estimate approximately 60,000 people who claim disability living allowance and live in residential care will be affected by this measure in Great Britain.

The disability living allowance mobility component is paid at a lower rate of £18.95 and a higher rate of £49.85. Of the 60,000 recipients affected by the measure, approximately 30,000 are currently paid the lower rate and 30,000 are paid the higher rate.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to publish an impact assessment of the effects on the removal of the mobility element of disability living allowance for people in residential homes and colleges. [23076]

Maria Miller: The Equality Impact Assessment for removing the mobility component of disability living allowance from state funded care home residents after 28 days is still being completed and will be published shortly.

Employment and Support Allowance

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people he estimates will claim *(a)* employment and support allowance (ESA) and *(b)* contributory ESA in 2014 who (i) will cite mental health issues as the primary reason for claiming and (ii) will previously have claimed incapacity benefit. [23495]

Maria Miller: The requested information will partly be available on 29 November 2010 alongside the autumn statement and will be deposited in the Library. We will be able to provide estimates of *(a)* the number of people who will claim employment support allowance (ESA), *(b)* contributory ESA and (ii) whether they have previously claimed IB.

While we do not produce forecasts by medical condition and therefore cannot provide an estimate for 2004, the Department does record the primary health condition of people currently claiming ESA. As a broad indicator, at February 2010 the ESA case load was 479,000. Of these 183,000 reported mental and behavioural disorders as their primary health condition.

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of claimants of contributory employment and support allowance under the work-related activity group in 2014 who have previously claimed incapacity benefit. [23510]

Maria Miller: The requested information will be available on 29 November 2010 alongside the autumn statement and will be deposited in the Library. We will provide estimates at this time.

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants of contributory employment and support allowance in the support group there are; and how many in that group cite a mental health condition as the primary reason to claim. [23511]

Maria Miller: The number of contributory employment and support allowance claimants under the mental and behavioural disorders category by stage of claim—February 2010—can be found in the following table.

The table firstly gives information on the total ESA caseload and those who have a contributory element to their award. Beneath that it provides the numbers of those specifically with a mental/behavioural health condition and whether they fall into the ESA phase of assessment, work-related activity group or support group. These are also broken down further to show the number of these who have a contributory element to their award.

The ESA phase is derived from payment details held on the source system. Where the claimant is not in receipt of any benefit payment, but receiving national insurance credits, then the stage of benefit is shown as unknown.

		Stage of claim			
	All	*Unknown*	*Assessment*	*Support group*	*Work related group*
All ESA claimants	479,430	55,570	312,330	30,610	80,910
ESA claimants with a contributory element	203,680	90	143,430	17,090	43,070
Mental and Behavioural category					
All ESA claimants	182,880	17,310	124,740	9,130	31,700
ESA claimants with a contributory element	62,120	—	46,190	3,190	12,740

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. ESA statistics by medical condition can be found at http://83.244.183.180/ESA/esa_additional_feb10.xls
3. Benefit type: The type of ESA is defined as pay status at the caseload date. This may differ to the status at the start or end of the claim.
4. Employment and support allowance (ESA) replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid.
5. Stage of ESA claim: The stage of claim is derived from the amount of payment a claimant receives. There are a number of cases where the stage is unknown, these are claimants which do not receive any payment for ESA (These are those who receive national insurance credits only).
6. ICD (disease) code: Causes of incapacity are based on the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, published by the World Health Organisation. Medical condition is based on evidence provided at the start of the claim, this in itself does not confer entitlement to employment support allowance and may not represent a claimant's most recent medical condition. For ESA claimants data on medical condition are only available from February 2010 onwards.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100%

Employment and Support Allowance: East Lothian

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in East Lothian constituency have received employment and support allowance payments for more than one year. [24250]

Maria Miller: The information available is in the table.

Claimants of employment and support allowance, East Lothian parliamentary constituency

	Number
Claimants	710
Duration of over one year	80

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Some additional disclosure control has also been applied.
2. Figures are compiled using 2010 parliamentary constituency boundaries.
3. Employment and support allowance replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008.
4. Data include those receiving "credits only".

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data as at February 2010.

Housing Benefit

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has made an estimate of *(a)* the number of households in each constituency which will be affected by increasing the age threshold for the shared room rate rules from 25 to 35 years, *(b)* the average amount of local housing allowance such households would lose if they do not move home, *(c)* the average combined effects on the income of such households of losing their entitlement to a one bedroom property and reduction of their local housing allowance to the thirtieth percentile of local rents and *(d)* the number of (i) men and (ii) women who will be affected by the increase. [21758]

Steve Webb: We will publish a document on the impacts of the proposed changes to the shared room rate in due course. This will include information at the local authority level.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the percentage change in local housing allowance rates has been for each category of house in each local authority area in each month since the allowance's inception. [22088]

Steve Webb: This information is only available at the broad rental market area level. A copy of the available information has been placed in the Library.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were in receipt of housing benefit in each constituency in the last 12 months; and what the monetary value of the average weekly award was. [22368]

Steve Webb: The information is not available. At present geographic breakdowns are only available for local authorities and government office regions. However, an exercise is being undertaken to add other geographical areas to the data, which will include parliamentary constituencies.

Incapacity Benefit: Medical Examinations

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many decisions to reject applications for incapacity benefit based on medical examinations were overturned on appeal in *(a)* Wansbeck constituency, *(b)* Northumberland and *(c)* the UK in the last 12 months. [22923]

Maria Miller: Please note the information requested is not available at a constituency level. Between October 2009 and September 2010 there have been:

(b) 240 incapacity benefit (IB) appeals that have found in favour of the appellant in the Northumberland unitary authority and:

(c) 14,600 IB appeals that have found in favour of the appellant in the UK.

All figures are rounded to the nearest 10. This information is taken from benefit claims data held by the Department for Work and Pensions and appeals data sourced from the Tribunals Service covering appeals heard up to September 2010.

Poverty: Children

Mr Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the number of children in *(a)* absolute poverty, *(b)* relative poverty and *(c)* combined material deprivation and low income in Birmingham, Hall Green constituency. [23446]

Maria Miller: Estimates of the number and proportion of children living in poverty are published in the Households Below Average Income (HBAI) series. HBAI uses household income adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, to provide a proxy for standard of living.

As they are based on survey data, child poverty estimates published in HBAI only allow breakdowns to Government Office Region and analysis by Parliamentary constituency is not possible. However, figures for the West Midlands are set out in Table 1.

Table 1: Number and percentage of children living in (a) relative poverty before housing costs (BHC) (b) absolute poverty (BHC) and (c) combined material deprivation and low income in the West Midlands, before housing costs

	Number of children (million) and percentage					
	Relative poverty		*Absolute poverty*		*Combined material deprivation and low income*	
Period	*Number*	*(%)*	*Number*	*(%)*	*Number*	*(%)*
2006-07 to 2008-09	0.3	29	0.2	17	0.2	21

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on households below average income (HBAI) data sourced from the 2008-09 Family Resources Survey (FRS). This uses disposable household income, adjusted using modified OECD equivalisation factors for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.

2. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.

3. The reference period for households below average income figures are single financial years. Three survey years have been combined as regional single year estimates are subject to volatility.

4. Numbers of children in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest 100,000, while proportions have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.

5. These statistics are based on incomes Before Housing Costs.

6. Each of the measures is defined as:

Relative poverty: percentage of children living in households with less than 60% of contemporary median household income.

Absolute poverty: percentage of children living in households with less than 60% of 1998-99 median household income held constant in real terms.

Low income and material deprivation: percentage of children living in households in material deprivation and with less than 70 per cent of contemporary median household income.

Source:

Households below average income, DWP

Shared Housing: East Lothian

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has made an estimate of *(a)* the number of households in East Lothian constituency which will be affected by increasing the age threshold for the shared room rate rules from 25 to 35 years, *(b)* the average amount of local housing allowance such households would lose if they do not move home, *(c)* the average combined effects on the income of such households of losing their entitlement to a one bedroom property and reduction of their local housing allowance to the thirtieth percentile of local rents and *(d)* the number of (i) men and (ii) women who will be affected by increasing the age threshold for the shared room rate rules from 25 to 35 years in such households in East Lothian constituency. [24249]

Steve Webb: We will publish a document on the impacts of the proposed changes to the shared room rate in due course. This will include information at the local authority level.

Social Security Benefits

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to encourage people to take up their benefit entitlements. [23512]

Steve Webb: The latest estimates of take-up of all income-related benefits in 2008-09 were published in June 2010. The figures show that there was £38.1 billion claimed across all income related benefits representing between around 75% and 85% take-up by expenditure. The take-up report is available on line at:

http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=irb_2

We want to make sure that everyone is getting all of the help that they are entitled to which is why the Department makes information available in various locations including doctors' surgeries, welfare rights groups and Jobcentre Plus offices to ensure that people are aware of the benefits to which they may be entitled and how to claim them. Information on benefits is also available on the Department's website:

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/index.htm

With the introduction of universal credit from October 2013, which will replace six working age means tested benefits; people will be better placed to find out what benefits they can get.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has plans to increase internet access for benefit claimants. [23513]

Chris Grayling: The Department is committed to providing accessible and attractive online services for our customers and we have plans in place to deliver more and more of our services online. We recognise that some customers do not have access to the internet and so are working with a range of partners to provide information to customers on where and how to get internet access.

Jobcentre Plus has recently introduced Digital Champions in every Jobcentre. Their role is to promote digital take up and to find what support is available locally for customers to get online through partner organisations and share this information with colleagues to help and encourage customers to get online.

In addition, DWP is helping residents in sheltered housing schemes to benefit from access to equipment, training and support to get online. By the end of March 2011, 196 sheltered housing schemes will have received funding for digital equipment.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Mr David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department had spent on telephone voice analysis to detect fraudulent benefit claims on the latest date for which figures are available. [24254]

Chris Grayling: In 2008-09 a total of £1,734,314.07 was paid directly to the 24 local authorities involved in voice risk analysis pilots. There was no DWP funding for voice risk analysis in subsequent years. The Department has discontinued interest in voice risk analysis.

Mr David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of his Department budget for 2011-12 will be allocated to voice analysis for benefit fraud detection purposes. [24255]

Chris Grayling: No funding has been allocated to voice analysis for benefit fraud detection purposes in 2011-12. The Department has discontinued interest in voice risk analysis.

Work Capability Assessment

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department takes to ensure prompt resolution of appeals against the outcomes of work capability assessments. [21373]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State for Work and for Pensions has asked me to reply to your question regarding the steps his Department takes to ensure appeals against the outcomes of work capability assessments are resolved promptly. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus has recently undertaken successful trials in Wrexham to improve the handling of appeals arising from Work Capability Assessment (WCA) decisions. This improved process has now been rolled out nationally and involves Appeals Officers in Jobcentre Plus making contact by telephone with all customers who wish to challenge their WCA decision. This provides an opportunity to explain the reasons for reaching the decision and to explore further the grounds for challenging the decision. It also provides an opportunity to obtain any relevant new information and to explain to the customer whether, in the light of all the evidence now available, it is appropriate to revise the decision. The success of the Wrexham trial suggests this improvement will have an effect in further reducing the volume of appeals.

Where the discussion with the customer reveals that it is not appropriate to change the original decision, the customer may decide to proceed to appeal. In these cases, customers are advised that the appeal will be sent to the Tribunal Service who are responsible for arranging a date and time for hearing the appeal.

Jobcentre Plus continues to work closely with the Tribunal Service to identify how further efficiencies and quicker processing of Employment Support Allowance (ESA) appeals can be achieved.

I hope this information is helpful.

Work Capability Assessment: Mental Health

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have undergone mental health assessments in connection with work capability assessments in *(a)* England and *(b)* Gloucestershire in the last year for which figures are available. [24257]

Chris Grayling: Almost all ESA claimants undergo a Work Capability Assessment (the exception being those who are known to be terminally ill), although this does not always involve a face-to-face assessment and is sometimes based on the paper evidence available. All claimants are assessed against the same set of descriptors, laid out in legislation, which cover physical functions and mental, intellectual and cognitive functions.

For the year to the end of June 2010, 353,100 assessments have been carried out in England. In the same period, 4,400 assessments have been completed in Gloucestershire.

Gloucestershire has been taken as the combination of the local authorities of Cheltenham, Cotswold, Forest of Dean, Gloucester, South Gloucestershire, Stroud and Tewkesbury.

Work Programme

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what role he expects voluntary groups to play in the Work Programme. [22523]

Chris Grayling: The voluntary sector has a wide range of skills and experience that it will be vital to harness if the Work Programme is to be successful. We have been actively encouraging potential sub-contractors, including those from the voluntary sector, to engage with potential prime contractors nationwide.

We are also ensuring that we protect smaller voluntary organisations by requiring prime contractors to meet the award winning Merlin standard, an independent accreditation of the arrangements between a prime contractor and their sub-contractors/partners.

EDUCATION

School Sports

20. **Alex Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the likely effects on the future of sport in schools of the reductions in funding for school sport proposed in the comprehensive spending review. [23539]

Tim Loughton: The planned changes in the Department's expenditure on school sport beginning in 2011-12 will enable us to deliver on our coalition Government commitment to create an annual Olympic-style school sport event to encourage more competitive sport in schools.

Academies

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to extend the acceptance criteria for schools wishing to convert to academy status; and what new criteria he is considering. [20560]

Mr Gibb: Currently only those schools judged as outstanding by Ofsted can apply to convert to become academies. However, we do want the benefits and freedoms that academy status brings to be available to many more schools. An announcement will be made shortly about when the next group of schools will be invited to apply, and what criteria will be used to determine that group. Ofsted inspection judgments will continue to form an important part of the process.

Booktrust Scheme

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what future plans he has for the funding of Booktrust; and if he will make a statement. [21187]

Sarah Teather: The Department for Education's overall funding settlement was announced on 20 October. We are working through the details of that settlement and the funding implications for individual policy and programmes, including the funding of Booktrust. We will make further announcements over the coming weeks.

Capital Investment

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what timetable he has set for the James review of capital investment. [18335]

Mr Gibb: The capital review announced by the Secretary of State on 5 July 2010 will conclude its work by the end of this calendar year. We intend to determine capital allocations as soon as possible thereafter.

Children in Care

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of children in care were adopted in each of the last five years. [18227]

Tim Loughton: The requested information is available as part of the "Statistical First Release, Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England (including adoption and care leavers)—year ending 31 March 2010". This can be found at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000960/index.shtml

Information on the number and proportion of children looked after who were adopted in each of the last five years is found in table D1. These tables can be found in the excel link titled 'England Summary tables'.

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children were *(a)* taken into care (excluding respite care), *(b)* left care and *(c)* were adopted in each year from 1980 to 2005; how many left care through adoption in each such year; and how many were in care on 31 March in each such year. [20371]

Tim Loughton: The information requested on *(a)* the number of children taken into care (excluding respite care) from 1980 to 2005 can be provided only at a disproportionate cost. Information on the number of children who were taken into care was published for the first time in 2010. This table shows information for year ending 31 March 2006 to 2010 and can be found in table C4 (in the excel link titled "England Summary tables") available at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000960/index.shtml

Information on the number of children *(b)* who left care, *(c)* who were adopted and the number who were in care on 31 March can be found via the "Children Looked After" publications, as follows:

"Children Looked After by Local Authorities Year ending 31 March 1998", England available at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000506/index.shtml

Table A: Number of children who were looked after at 31 March for year ending 31 March 1988 to 1998.

Table H: Number of looked-after children adopted during year ending 31 March 1994 to 1998.

"Children Looked After by Local Authorities Year ending 31 March 2001", England available at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000509/index.shtml

Table S: Number of children who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 1997 to 2001 by duration of latest period of care.

Table H: Number of looked-after children adopted during the year ending 31 March 1997 to 2001.

"Children Looked After by Local Authorities, Year Ending 31 March 2005" available at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000646/index.shtml

Table AB: Children who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2001 to 2005 by gender and age on ceasing.

Table AM: Looked-after children adopted during the year ending 31 March by gender, age at adoption, final legal status, duration of final period of care, age on starting final period of care and time between best interest decision and placement for adoption, 2001 to 2005.

Both of these tables can be found in the additional information titled "Volume 1—National Tables".

Number of children looked after at 31 March by local authority, 1997 to 2005. This can be found in the additional information spreadsheet titled "Children looked after at 31 March by local authorities, 1997 to 2005".

Information on the number of children looked after at 31 March is not available prior to 1988. Information on the number of children who ceased to be looked after prior to 1997 and information on the number of looked-after children adopted prior to 1994 can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Historical data in the above statistical releases may differ from that included in older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.

Children's Centres: Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many child care places are available in children's centres in Warrington North constituency; and how many Government-funded places at such centres will be available at the end of the comprehensive spending review period. [19897]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 27 October 2010]:* The Department does not collect data on the number of child care places available in Sure Start Children's Centres at a constituency or a local authority level. Local authorities have a duty under the Childcare Act 2006 to secure sufficient child care, where reasonably practicable, for working parents in their area. As part of the spending review settlement, the Government announced that they will be extending 15 hours per week of free early education to the most disadvantaged two-year-olds, building on the current 15 hour free entitlement for all three and four-year-olds. We expect 130,000 two-year-olds to benefit from this extension by the end of the spending review period.

Clergy

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many times since 12 May 2010 Ministers in his Department have met with representatives of the *(a)* Church of England, *(b)* Church of England's Education Division, *(c)* National Society, *(d)* Catholic Church in England and Wales, *(e)* Catholic Education Service, *(f)* Catholic Diocesan Schools Commission, *(g)* Catholic Association of Teachers Schools and Colleges, *(h)* Methodist Church, *(i)* Methodist Education, *(j)* Muslim Council of Britain, *(k)* Board of Deputies of British Jews, *(l)* Agency for Jewish Education, *(m)* Accord Coalition, *(n)* British Humanist Association and *(o)* National Secular Society. [18660]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 25 October 2010]:* The following table gives details of the number of occasions Ministers at the Department for Education have held meetings at the Department with representatives of the faith related organisations listed since 12 May 2010.

Organisation	*Total number of meetings*
Church of England, Church of England's Education Division, The National Society	3
Catholic Church in England and Wales, Catholic Education Service for England and Wales	3
Catholic Diocesan Schools Commission	0
Catholic Association of Teachers Schools and Colleges	0
Methodist Church, Methodist Education	0
Muslim Council of Britain	0
Board of Deputies of British Jews	2
Agency for Jewish Education	0
Accord Coalition	0
British Humanist Association	0
National Secular Society	0

Departmental Redundancy

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how much funding to meet staff redundancy costs was identified in his Department's settlement letter in respect of the comprehensive spending review; [21514]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of staff redundancy in each of the next four years. [21516]

Tim Loughton: All pressures on Departments' budgets were taken into account as part of the spending review and settlements were allocated accordingly. The full costs of redundancies will be met from within the Department's spending review resource DEL settlement.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment his Department has made of the likely effects on young people from poor backgrounds of the ending of educational maintenance allowance; and if he will make a statement. [20401]

Mr Gibb: The education maintenance allowance (EMA) scheme will close at the end of the 2010/11 academic year. Evaluation evidence from the EMA pilots as well as more recent research suggests that around 90% of recipients would have stayed on after 16 even if they had not received EMA. We are replacing EMA with an enhanced learner support fund, which will enable closer targeting of resources on the most disadvantaged young people. Schools and colleges will be able to target support towards those young people who would not otherwise be able to participate because of serious financial barriers.

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for student support following the ending of education maintenance allowance; and if he will make a statement. [20847]

Mr Gibb: The education maintenance allowance scheme will close at the end of the 2010/11 academic year and no new applications will be processed from 1 January 2011. It will be replaced by an enhanced Discretionary Learner Support Fund. Decisions about which young people should receive financial support from the Discretionary Learner Support Fund will be made by schools, colleges and training providers, who are in a better position than Government to determine the needs of individual students. They will target support to those young people who most need it to continue in learning.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Greater London

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many students in *(a)* Tottenham constituency and *(b)* Haringey received education maintenance allowance in each year since 2004-05; and how much was paid in that allowance to pupils in each such area in each such year. [20595]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education.

Peter Lauener the YPLA's chief executive, will write to the right hon. Member for Tottenham with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many young people resident in *(a)* Bethnal Green and Bow constituency, *(b)* Tower Hamlets and *(c)* London have received the education maintenance allowance in each year since its inception. [20883]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member for Bethnal Green and Bow with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Public Expenditure

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what expenditure his Department incurred on education maintenance allowance in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and what forecast he has made of such expenditure in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) each of the subsequent four years. [19341]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 25 October 2010]:* The total expenditure on EMA in 2008-09 was £532 million and in 2009-10 it was £569 million. The budget for 2010-11 is £564 million. We estimate that around £174 million will be spent on EMA in the 2011-12 financial year (as a proportion of payments to young people participating in the academic year 2010/11 fall in the financial year 2011-12). The EMA scheme will cease at the end of the 2010/11 academic year.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Staffordshire

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department spent on education maintenance allowance payments in *(a)* Tamworth and *(b)* Staffordshire in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [20679]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener the YPLA's chief executive, will write to my hon. Friend the Member for Tamworth with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Education: Finance

Andy Burnham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education with reference to the HM Treasury press notice on 2010-11 savings of 24 May 2010, what definition of frontline funding his Department uses; and how much he plans to allocate to frontline funding for schools in 2011-12. [18273]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 19 October 2010]:* The core school baselines we are protecting are: funds allocated for one to one tuition; funds allocated for "every child" programmes such as Every Child a Reader; extended schools; school lunch grant; School Standards Grant; School Development Grant; Specialist schools grant; Ethnic Minority Achievement grant; The National Strategies' budgets that were allocated to schools; Dedicated Schools Grant, and funds allocated for Academies.

The total planned schools budget for 2011-12 is £36.1 billion.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what guidance his Department issues to local education authorities on reduction of their schools budgets. [18941]

Mr Gibb: Following the spending review, funding for the schools budget will increase in cash terms by £3.6 billion by 2014-15. This is a 0.1% increase in real terms in each year. The management of the schools budget by local authorities is governed by the School Finance (England) Regulations: guidance is issued along with the regulations. The Department is currently consulting on new regulations to come into force in April 2011.

Family and Parenting Institute

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he plans to review the *(a)* work programme and (b) budget of the Family and Parenting Institute; and if he will make a statement. [21256]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 2 November 2010]:* Family and Parenting Institute have a long-standing financial relationship with the Department and their work programme is regularly reviewed. We have announced the overall funding settlement for the Department for Education, but we are still in the process of determining what this means for specific activities including future funding for activities undertaken by the Family and Parenting Institute. We will make further announcements about funding for specific programmes and organisations over the coming weeks.

Family Rights Group: Finance

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding his Department plans to provide to the Family Rights Advice Service in each year of the 2010 spending review period. [23862]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 12 November 2010]:* We have announced the overall funding settlement for the Department for Education, but we are still in the process of determining what this means for specific activities, including future funding for any family rights advice service in England. We will make further announcements about funding for specific programmes over the coming weeks.

Free Schools

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what qualifications teachers employed by free schools will be required to have. [23527]

Michael Gove: Innovation, diversity and flexibility are at the heart of the free schools policy. We want the dynamism that characterises the best independent schools to drive up standards in the state sector. In this spirit we will not be setting overly prescriptive requirements in relation to qualifications; instead we will expect business cases to demonstrate how governing bodies intend to guarantee the highest quality of teaching and leadership in their schools. No school will be allowed to proceed unless its proposals for quality teaching are soundly based. Ensuring each free school's unique educational vision is translated into the classroom will require brilliant people with a diverse range of experience.

Institute for Fiscal Studies

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department has spent on services provided by the Institute for Fiscal Studies in the last 24 months. [20473]

Tim Loughton: Department for Education financial records show that between October 2008 and October 2010 the Department spent £736,000 on services provided by the Institute for Fiscal Studies.

Playgrounds: Construction

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to announce his decision on the future of support for Playbuilder schemes; and if he will take steps to ensure that support for local community groups operating such schemes is maintained at no less than present levels. [16091]

Sarah Teather: Decisions have now been taken on savings to the 2010-11 play capital budget. A total of £20.8 million has been saved from this years play budget, reducing the original figure from £75 million to £54.2 million.

Revised allocations for this year have been communicated to local authorities. All local authorities will receive almost two-thirds of their original allocation. We have also provided additional funding to 49 local authorities who have contractual commitments that would otherwise exceed their revised allocation.

One of the big successes of the play programme has been the involvement of community groups in helping to improve the availability and quality of local play areas, and we want this level of community engagement to continue. We also recognise the huge efforts of local authorities, partner agencies, the play sector and industry in improving facilities for children across the country.

For the future, the Government want to give local people more control over what local money is spent on, and what gets built where, to make the most of the limited resources available. Play England will be providing specific advice and help to communities and local authorities in the current financial year.

Playgrounds: Finance

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he expects to take final decisions on the funding of Playbuilder projects. [18500]

Sarah Teather: Decisions have now been taken on savings to the 2010-11 play capital budget. A total of £20.8 million has been saved from this years play budget, reducing the original figure from £75 million to £54.2 million.

The Department wrote to local authorities in July asking them to give us information on the status of their 2010-11 play projects. We said the Department would cover the cost of play areas which local authorities had already completed this year or where groundwork had already started and, subject to affordability, ensure that local authorities did not need to break any contractual commitments they had already entered into.

I am pleased to be able to report that we have been able to achieve this aim. All local authorities will receive almost two-thirds of their original allocations and we have also provided additional funding to 49 authorities who have contractual commitments that would otherwise exceed their revised allocation.

The Secretary of State has written to local authorities informing them of the completion of the savings exercise, notifying them of their revised play capital funding allocations for this financial year and reminding them that the ring-fence has been removed from this grant in order to provide local authorities with more flexibility to manage their own local budgets.

It is now for local authorities and their partners to make decisions on which local projects progress. There will be no centrally made judgement on which individual projects progress.

Pre-school Education: North West

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many three-year-olds attended pre-school education in the *(a)* maintained, *(b)* private and *(c)* voluntary sector as a proportion of the total number of eligible children in each super output area in the North West in the latest period for which figures are available. [18614]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 25 October 2010]*: The total number of three-year-olds attending pre-school education in the north-west region is given in the table. Numbers for each super output area in the north-west region have been placed in the Libraries.

Number of three-year-old children[1, 2] attending pre-school education maintained[3], private[4], voluntary and independent providers, north-west region, January 2010

Type of provider	*Number[5]*
Maintained schools[2, 3]	36,730
Private providers[4]	2,140
Voluntary providers	33,270
Independent schools[2]	9,200
Total	81,330

[1] Children aged three as at 31 December 2009.

[2] Number of three-year-olds may include some children aged two.

[3] Includes maintained nursery, primary, and special schools.

[4] Includes childminder networks, local authority day nurseries, private providers and other providers.

[5] Numbers rounded to nearest 10.

Source:

Early Years Census 2010 and School Census 2010.

Figures are usually reported for private, voluntary, and independent providers as well as maintained schools. Therefore figures for independent schools have been included in the answer for completeness.

The number of three-year-olds attending pre-school education as a proportion of the eligible children is not available. Since all children are entitled to Early Years provision, the proportion would be based on the total three-year-old population in each area. However, ONS population estimates are not available on a comparable basis to the data used in the answer and population estimates are not accurate at the low level of super output area.

The latest figures on early education places for three and four-year-olds in England were published in Statistical First Release (SFR) 16/2010 "Provision for children under five years of age in England: January 2010", available on the Department's website:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000935/index.shtml

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) whether local education authorities will have discretion in passing on the pupil premium to schools; [20782]

(2) what the monetary value of the pupil premium will be per qualifying pupil in each year to 2014-15; and what account he plans to take of geographic location in determining the level of that premium; [20783]

(3) how much he plans to spend on the pupil premium in each year to 2014-15; [20784]

(4) whether local education authorities will continue to receive funding for education welfare services and services for pupils with special educational needs following the introduction of the pupil premium; [20785]

(5) when he plans to announce the criteria to be used to determine the pupils to qualify for the pupil premium. [20786]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 4 November 2010]:* The Government held a public consultation from 26 July to 18 October on school funding for 2011-12 and the introduction of the pupil premium, covering the methodology for allocation of the premium.

We set out in the consultation document that the conditions of grant for the pupil premium will require local authorities to pass it on in its entirety to maintained mainstream schools using specific defined per pupil amounts, for every relevant pupil in years from reception to year 11.

We are currently considering responses to the consultation and will make a statement on the outcome shortly.

The pupil premium will rise progressively to £2.5 billion over the spending review period. We will announce the pupil premium allocations for 2011-12 before the end of the year.

There is no specific earmarked funding for education welfare services. Councils fund these services from a combination of formula grant and council tax. It is for councils to decide how much they wish to spend on these services. Services for pupils with special educational needs will continue to be funded through the dedicated schools grant in 2011-12.

We will announce further information about the pupil premium before the end of the year.

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to reduce the attainment gap between pupils from affluent and poor backgrounds in *(a)* Croydon South constituency and *(b)* England. [23516]

Sarah Teather: Reducing the attainment gap between pupils from affluent and poor backgrounds is at the heart of our policy for school improvement, in Croydon South, as elsewhere.

On 15 October, we announced a £7.2 billion Fairness Premium, including a Pupil Premium for schools. The Pupil Premium will target extra funding at the most disadvantaged pupils wherever they live, reducing educational inequalities and ensuring that poorer students receive the support they need to reach their potential.

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of children in *(a)* Kingswood constituency and *(b)* England who will receive the proposed pupil premium. [23533]

Sarah Teather: We are considering the responses to the consultation on school funding which ended on 18 October, including the question of which deprivation indicator to use. The number of children eligible, either in a constituency or in England as a whole, will depend on this decision.

Qualifications and Credit Framework

Elizabeth Truss: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the future of the Qualifications and Credit Framework. [21102]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 28 October 2010]:* The Department has asked Professor Alison Wolf to carry out an independent review of vocational education. As part of her review Professor Wolf will examine the organisation and funding of vocational education, which will include consideration of the Qualifications and Credit Framework in relation to qualifications for 14 to 19-year-olds She will report in spring 2011.

School Leaving

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of raising the participation age to 18 years in *(a)* 2013, *(b)* 2014 and *(c)* 2015. [20585]

Mr Gibb: We are still determining the levels of funding for 16 to 18-year-olds for the years of the spending review period. We remain committed to raising the participation age to 18 by 2015, although reductions in the unit cost of provision will need to be secured. Our aim is to announce the details of the 16-19 settlement and any changes to funding policy that will help deliver this before Christmas and make allocations for the 2011/12 academic year by the end of March 2011.

School Leaving: Finance

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he made of the annual cost to the Exchequer of continuing the September School Leaver's Guarantee. [15896]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 11 October 2010]:* The Government committed to continue the September Guarantee in 2010, offering all 16 and 17-year-olds a suitable place in education or training. The associated cost to the Exchequer of continuing the Guarantee is the funding provided for those education and training places. Funding for 16-19 education is set out in the Young People's Learning Agency's Grant Letter. In 2010-11, just under £7.2 billion has been allocated for places in schools, colleges and training providers for education and training for 16 to 18-year-olds in the 2010/11 academic year. This total funding provides places for 16, 17 and 18-year-olds, while the September Guarantee covers only 16 and 17-year-olds.

Following the spending review, we announced that we remain committed to full participation and to raising the participation age to 18 by 2015. We aim to announce the details of the 16-19 settlement before Christmas and make allocations for the 2011/12 academic year by the end of March 2011.

Schools: Admissions

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on permitting *(a)* academies and *(b)* other schools to control their admissions policies. [20097]

Mr Gibb: Admissions policies are set and applied locally by admission authorities. For community and voluntary-controlled schools, this is the local authority. For foundation and voluntary-aided schools, this is the governing body. Academies are responsible for agreeing their own admission policies with the Secretary of State.

Maintained schools, local authorities, Admission Forums and school adjudicators must all act in accordance with the School Admissions Code which has the force of law for maintained schools. For Academies, compliance is through a contractual duty within their funding agreements.

All local authorities are required to have in place a scheme each year for co-ordinating admission arrangements for maintained schools in their area. Academies are required, through their funding agreement, to take part in co-ordination.

Schools: Construction

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of his Department's capital expenditure on new school buildings in the next spending review period. [19449]

Mr Gibb: DfE has received a capital allocation of £15.8 billion for 2011-12 to 2014-15. The overall prioritisation and distribution of this funding will be informed by the capital review, which is due to report at the end of the year.

Schools: Energy

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many school buildings constructed under the Building Schools for the Future programme received an *(a)* A, *(b)* B, *(c)* C, *(d)* D, *(e)* E, *(f)* F and *(g)* G grade Display Energy Certificate; how many have yet to be so graded; and what proportion of buildings in the school estate are at each energy efficiency grade. [20568]

Mr Gibb: The Department does not hold data on how many school buildings constructed under the BSF programme received an A, B, C, D, E, F, and G grade Display Energy Certificate, how many have yet to be so graded and what proportion of buildings in the schools estate are at each energy efficiency grade. This information is not held centrally and is held by the individual schools. Display Energy Certificates are required under the EU Energy Performance of Buildings Directive and it is the responsibility of the building owner to ensure that they are carried out.

Westgate School Newcastle: Finance

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 6 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 357W, on Westgate School Newcastle, when he plans to determine whether the funding allocated by Newcastle's capital fund to Westgate Primary School in 2008 will continue. [23103]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 9 November 2010]*: Decisions about future capital funding including funding for primary schools will be determined in the light of the capital review announced by the Secretary of State on 5 July 2010. The capital review team will complete its work by the end of the calendar year.

In the comprehensive spending review (CSR) announcement on 20 October 2010, the Chancellor announced that DfE capital spending will be:

	£ billion
2011-12	4.9
2012-13	4.2
2013-14	3.3
2014-15	3.4

Young People: Voluntary Organisations

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the effects of the outcome of the spending review on statutory funding for voluntary sector organisations working with children, young people and families; and if he will make a statement. [19273]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 25 October 2010]*: The voluntary sector plays, and will continue to play, a significant role in reforming services for children, young people and families. We are opening up markets and will enable the voluntary sector to become better involved in delivering key services such as children's centres and youth services and we will work with local authorities to ensure that they commission services from the sector.

While the voluntary sector cannot be immune from reductions in public expenditure, the spending review announced that Government will direct around £470 million over the SR period to support capacity building in the sector, including an endowment fund to assist local voluntary and community organisations. As part of this, the Government will provide funds to pilot the National Citizen Service and establish a Transition Fund of £100 million to provide short term support for voluntary sector organisations providing public services. The sector will also be able to access funding from the Big Society Bank, which will bring in private sector funding in addition to receiving all funding available to England from dormant accounts.

Ministers will set out in due course the levels of funding that will be available through the SR period for voluntary sector organisations working with children, young people and families.

Youth Services: Finance

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he expects to make an announcement on the future of those projects which were approved as part of the myplace programme on which work was suspended pending the outcome of the comprehensive spending review. [20645]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 1 November 2010]*: The Department for Education has not yet made a decision on funding for youth facilities beyond March 2011. The Government have undertaken a comprehensive spending review and Ministers will announce details on programme level funding, including for the myplace programme, in the coming months.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Boilers: Standards

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans the Government has for the replacement of G-rated boilers. [23650]

Gregory Barker: A G-rated boiler has a seasonal efficiency of less than 70%. Boiler efficiency has been steadily increased through amendments to the Building Regulations which required the installation of more efficient replacement boilers. The minimum performance requirement of a boiler was increased to 90% in October, when the 2010 amendment to part L of the regulations came into force. Each year, 1.5 million domestic boilers are sold in the UK. As a consequence of building regulations and the clear message that this sends out about the need to replace inefficient boilers, we estimate that there will be virtually no G-rated boilers by 2020.

In addition to regulatory requirements, the replacement of inefficient boilers with a higher efficiency new boiler may be a measure under the Green Deal, provided the savings made over the product's life cover the upfront cost.

Carbon Emissions

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the likely efficacy of carbon sinks by 2050. [23810]

Gregory Barker: In the absence of significant emissions reductions, some weakening of global carbon sinks may occur by the end of this century but complete failure of either land or ocean carbon sinks is very unlikely.

Recent work from the UK AVOID programme, which considers global emissions reductions of 50% by 2050, suggests little change in sink strength by the middle of this century.

Carbon Emissions: Heating

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has to reduce carbon dioxide emissions arising from inefficient domestic heating systems; and whether the replacement of inefficient heating systems will be included in the proposed Green Deal. [23649]

Gregory Barker: The Government have committed to reducing household emissions by 29% by 2020.

There are a number of Government initiatives to address inefficient boilers in people's homes. These include our building regulations, the carbon emission reduction target extension to the end of 2012 and Warm Front support for the fuel poor. From June 2011, the renewable heat incentive will also provide support for uptake of renewable heat technologies.

From 2012, our new Green Deal will provide private finance for a range of energy saving measures, which are expected to pay for themselves over a set period of time. Decisions on the specific measures to be included will be taken in due course.

Carbon Emissions: Housing

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the number of G-rated boilers in use in households. [24092]

Gregory Barker: A G-rated boiler has a seasonal efficiency of less than 70%. The boiler population was researched as a part of the work to underpin the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) extension. Annex B, Table B7 of the CERT 2011-12 Impact Assessment, published in 2010, points to there being around 3.6 million G-rated boilers in households in 2010. This estimate of population should be reduced by around 119,000 boilers, to take account of those G-rated boilers replaced under the boiler scrappage scheme.

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether the Government's consultation on the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target will include heating systems. [24094]

Gregory Barker: A consultation on the role that appliances, consumer electronics and other low-value items should play in the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) scheme will be launched shortly. Heating systems are not part of this consultation and will continue to play a role in the CERT scheme. We will however consider any evidence presented to ensure CERT maximises its contribution to statutory carbon budgets, and this could include low value heating products.

Carbon Sequestration

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his most recent assessment is of the viability of carbon capture and storage technology; and if he will make a statement. [23706]

Charles Hendry: The individual processes involved in Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) have been demonstrated separately, but the full chain of technologies (capture, transport, and storage) has yet to be demonstrated together at large-scale on a commercial power station. The 2010 International Energy Agency/Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum Report on CCS to the G8 noted that progress toward commercialisation is being made but that the experience to be gained from the operation of large-scale demonstration projects will be critical to the deployment of CCS.

The Government are committed to providing public sector investment for four CCS demonstration plants, as set out in the Coalition Programme for Government. We announced in the spending review that up to £1 billion will be invested in the first of these projects.

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his most recent assessment is of progress on development of the UK's carbon capture capabilities. [23911]

Charles Hendry: Earlier this year the Global CCS Institute published work identifying up to 80 large-scale, integrated CCS projects that are active or planned. UK projects featured prominently.

The UK is well-placed to benefit from strengths in engineering expertise and potential for offshore storage of carbon dioxide under the North sea. The Government are determined to capitalise on these advantages and make the UK one of the best places to invest in CCS in the world.

We are committed to providing public sector investment for four CCS demonstration plants, as set out in the coalition programme for government. In the spending review we announced that up to £1 billion will be invested in the first of these projects. This is the largest confirmed commitment to a single commercial-scale CCS project in the world. We are aiming for the first project to be constructed by 2014-15. The competition is progressing, with front-end engineering and design (FEED) studies currently under way.

We recently completed a market sounding exercise to inform the development of the selection process for projects 2-4. We are currently analysing the information gathered and we aim to set out further details regarding our proposals at the end of the year.

We will be developing a CCS Roadmap in consultation with industry and key stakeholders, including the new CCS Development Forum that will identify barriers to commercial deployment of CCS and the actions required to overcome them. We will publish the Roadmap in spring 2011.

Climate Change

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his most recent assessment is of the likelihood of restricting a rise in global temperature increase to within 2° C. [23808]

Gregory Barker: The Government are committed to achieving an ambitious global deal to cut emissions consistent with limiting global temperature increases to 2° C, and to helping countries adapt to the inevitable impacts of climate change.

Evidence suggests that the expected increase in global temperatures is likely to be more than 2° C if we do not dramatically increase global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. A number of analyses, including those by the DECC-funded AVOID programme, the London School of Economics and, most recently the EU, have been published in the past year which examine the requirements for limiting temperature rise to below 2° C. These show that the chances of achieving this goal are significantly increased if countries deliver emission reductions which will result in global greenhouse gas emissions reaching an early peak (within the next decade) and falling quickly to at least 50% below 1990 levels in 2050 and even lower levels thereafter.

The pledges submitted to the Copenhagen Accord by over 80 countries, representing about 80% of global emissions, could lead to emissions peaking before 2020 if countries deliver on their high-end pledges in full, although rapid reductions will also be required after 2020 to deliver 2° C

Climate Change: China

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which projects on the effect of and adaptation to climate change in China his Department is funding; what the value of these projects is to UK research; and what the financial cost to his Department is of each such project. [23887]

Gregory Barker: DECC is currently contributing funding of £0.5 million over three years to a major multilateral research programme with China on impacts of, and adaptation to, climate change. The programme "Adaptation to Climate Change in China (ACCC)" explores the impacts of a changing climate on Chinese agriculture, water resources, health and disaster management.

The total budget for the programme is £4.8 million with contributions from DFID of £2.5 million and the Swiss Development Agency of £1.8 million.

The programme develops approaches to risk assessment of, and adaptation to climate change for the benefit of developing countries. Working with Chinese scientists in this programme builds on seven years of collaboration between the two countries, which has revealed the extent of climate change impacts on Chinese agriculture and identified approaches to address them. The programme has developed productive links between UK and Chinese researchers, including collaboration between the Met Office Hadley Centre and the China Meteorological Administration.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what collaborative projects on energy technology and energy systems planning his Department is undertaking with China; and what the estimated monetary value is of each such project. [23891]

Gregory Barker: DECC is engaged in a number of projects with China in this area.

The Chinese Advanced Power Plan Carbon Capture Options (CAPPCCO) project is looking to ensure that new power plants can be retrofitted with carbon capture and storage (CCS) technologies. This project is being led by Imperial college, is due to complete in spring 2011 and is valued at £265,000.

A project on Biomass Co-firing has sought to determine the strategic benefits of this technology in China. It has been led by Cranfield university and completed in October this year, at a cost of £270,000.

We are supporting a project in Guangdong Province (SE China) at a cost of £60,000 with additional funding coming from both the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Strategic Programme Fund and the Global CCS Institute. This project has resulted in CCS being identified as a strategic technology for development.

In addition, the UK continues to be involved in the EU-China Near Zero Emissions Coal project, phase I of which was completed in October 2009. Estimated costs to the European partners of phase II of this project are between €20 million and €50 million.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what strategic co-operation projects on climate change issues his Department is undertaking with China; what estimate he has made of their total monetary value; what further projects have been agreed following his visit to China in November 2010; and what estimate he has made of the number of new green jobs likely to be created in the UK as a result of those agreements. [23892]

Gregory Barker: In terms of existing projects, DECC is supporting a study between Sussex university and Tsinghua university to assess the barriers to the transfer of low carbon energy technology between the UK and China. The aim of the study is to facilitate technological co-operation between developed and developing countries. It is envisaged that the study will help to inform intergovernmental discussions about the development and transfer of low carbon energy technologies. The total cost of this project is £108,000.

In terms of new projects focused on climate change, during my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State's visit, the UK and China agreed to strengthen bilateral policy dialogue and exchange on topics including the use of fiscal measures and market mechanisms to promote low-carbon development and energy efficiency. It was agreed that these topics would be included in a new strand of cooperation activities aimed at sharing practical know-how and policy expertise between the UK and China's low-carbon pilot provinces and cities.

Further details of wider collaboration on green development are set out in the Policy Outcomes Statement of the Economic and Financial Dialogue, which can be found at

http://ukinchina.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/pdf/17069168/21605995/Outcomes-EFD

In addition during his visit to China, my right hon. Friend opened the first meeting of the UK-China energy dialogue. The dialogue will help to strengthen energy collaboration with China, including in respect of low carbon and renewable energy technologies.

No estimate has yet been made of the number of new green jobs likely to be created in the UK as a result of these agreements and activities.

I have replied separately to the hon. Member's questions in respect of adaptation and technology collaboration.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to his speech to the GLOBE Forum in Tianjin, China, 7 November 2010, what the evidential basis is of the figure of £3.5 trillion he gave for the monetary value of the global low-carbon and environmental sectors. [23893]

Gregory Barker: This figure is based on the Innovas report, commissioned by the then Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, which stated:

> 'The global market value of the low-carbon and environmental goods and services (LCEGS) sector was £3,046 billion in 2007-8. Taking into account different growth rates for over 220 global economies, it is estimated that overall the global LCEGS sector grew by approximately 4% in 2007-8.'

Allowing for a 4% year-on-year increase, the 2010-11 value of this sector would be an estimated £3,426 billion.

The full report can be found at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/files/file50254.pdf

Death: Weather

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for *(a)* Communities and Local Government and *(b)* Health on the prevention of excess winter deaths in 2010-11. [23569]

Gregory Barker: I have regular discussions with my right hon. Friends the Secretaries of State for Communities and Local Government and for Health on a range of policy issues and will continue to work closely with them as we develop and take forward policy to reduce the incidence of excess winter deaths.

Departmental Regulation

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what regulations his Department plans to *(a)* repeal and *(b)* amend in the next five years. [23083]

Gregory Barker: At present, it is too early to project how many regulations will be removed/amended over the course of the next five years.

The Department is exploring ways to minimise the burden of DECC's regulation on UK business without compromising our ability to meet our hugely important goals. To inform this, the noble Lord Marland of Odstock, responsible for the Department's regulatory agenda, wrote to 250 of the Department's key stakeholders asking for their views. The response letter from Lord Marland and a summary of responses to this exercise was published 12 November on the DECC internet site:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/about/better_reg/better_reg.aspx

So far DECC has identified the following regulations to repeal. The exact process for repealing these is still being explored (a suitable vehicle for repeal needs to be found, and consultation with relevant parties such as the devolved Administrations will need to take place for certain policies), but we are committed to identifying and repealing both redundant and unnecessarily burdensome pieces of regulation where possible. The policies identified for repeal to date are:

Repeal of 18 exemption order regulations from the Radioactive Substances Act (1993). These will be replaced by a reformed, simplified regime.

Repeal of two Electricity and Gas (Energy Efficiency Obligations) Orders (2001 and 2004). These have now been superseded by CERT regulations.

Repeal of the Home Energy Conservation Act, 1995 (HECA), to make way for more targeted intervention in this area, remaining mindful of the important role local authorities play in this agenda and taking this into account in the development of new regulation. This will be repealed in the forthcoming Energy Bill

Repeal of a duty on the Secretary of State to take reasonable steps to ensure that by 2010 the general level of energy efficiency of residential accommodation in England has increased by at least 20% compared with 2000 levels, as this is effectively now redundant. (section 217 Housing Act 2004).

Repeal of the obligation for the building and conversion of oil or gas fired power stations of 10 MW or more to be notified to the Secretary of State (section 14(1) of the Energy Act 1976).

Repeal of the obligation for power station gas contracts of 12 months or more to be notified to the Secretary of State (section 14(2), Energy Act 1976).

Repeal of regulation regarding the employment of horses working underground, now obsolete because no horses or ponies have been employed in mines in the last 10 years (The Coal and Other Mines (Horses) Order 1956).

Repeal of a power to require energy suppliers and generators to provide research and development information to the Government (section 99 (2)-(4), Electricity Act 1989).

Repeal of powers in the 2010 Energy Act to adjust gas and electricity charges to address price discrimination (sections 26-29 Energy Act 2010).

Savings may be fed into the One-in One-Out process as OUTs. Generally, my Department will continue to work to identify further potential OUTs for One-in, One-out.

The Government's regulatory Forward Programme is due to be published later this year which will provide details of forthcoming regulation.

Energy Act 2010

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will exercise his powers under the Energy Act 2010 to require suppliers to provide social price support to all groups that qualify for cold weather payments and households in receipt of means-tested benefits with children under the age of 16 years. [24505]

Gregory Barker: Energy suppliers will be required from April 2011 to provide greater help with the financial costs of energy bills to more of the most vulnerable fuel poor households, with total support of £250 million in 2011-12 rising to £310 million per annum in 2014-15. The regulations requiring suppliers' participation will be made using powers under the Energy Act 2010.

We intend to consult on the detailed policy design, including eligibility and targeting methods, later this year.

Energy Companies: Pensions

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change from what budget the cost of the efficiency review of energy network operators' pension costs will be met; when he expects that review to be completed; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of that review. [24059]

Charles Hendry: The energy regulator Ofgem will shortly formally commission the Government Actuary's Department to undertake an initial review into energy network operators' pension costs in order to ensure that consumers only fund efficiently incurred pension costs. Pension costs can be significant with the recently concluded electricity distribution price control allowing £1.7 billion of funding. This initial review will cost £30,000, which will be met from within Ofgem's existing licence fee income, and is due to be completed by March 2011.

If any pension schemes are identified in this initial review as potentially inefficient they will then be subject to a specific efficiency review. The costs of these subsequent reviews, if required, will also be met from within Ofgem's existing licence fee income.

Energy: Private Rented Housing

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to ensure that the Green Deal will be available to households in the private rented sector. [23315]

Gregory Barker: The Green Deal will be available across all housing tenures.

We expect that private landlords will respond positively to the Green Deal as it will remove the upfront costs of energy efficiency measures. The Green Deal enables households to invest in energy efficiency improvements at no upfront cost and repay through energy bills. That means landlords no longer face an expensive outlay for work requested by their tenants. Instead, under the Green Deal, tenants will be able to pay for the work through the savings on their energy bill.

However, if following a review of the performance of the sector, we find landlords are not taking up this offer, we will respond accordingly.

We are seeking to take powers in the Energy Security and Green Economy Bill to require landlords to honour reasonable requests for energy efficiency improvements, where a financial support package is available. It will also allow local authorities to insist that landlords improve the worst performing homes.

EU Emissions Trading Scheme

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on the European Commission's proposed hybrid clinker benchmark for Phase III of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme. [23590]

Gregory Barker: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and I discuss a wide range of issues with our colleagues at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills from time to time. These discussions include the implications of EU legislation for UK business. Our officials are in regular dialogue with the cement industry in order that we may understand fully the implications of the European Commission's proposal for the free allocation rules for Phase III of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) for the UK economy before any decisions are taken.

Fuel Poverty

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the remit of his Department's review of fuel poverty will be; and when he expects it to report. [23443]

Gregory Barker: The spending review included an announcement that the Government intend to initiate an independent review of the fuel poverty target and definition before the end of the year. This is in the context of our commitment to focus available resources where they will be most effective in tackling the problems underlying fuel poverty. We will announce more details on the proposed review, including duration and remit, before the end of the year.

Housing: Carbon Emissions

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much capital funding for the proposed Green Deal he expects to be contributed by private sector companies. [24418]

Gregory Barker: We anticipate the Green Deal will be entirely privately financed, although we are reshaping the energy company obligation to ensure that there is additional support for low income and vulnerable households, and to help meet the costs of securing energy efficiency in properties that are harder to treat.

The scale of the financial requirement cannot be fully determined ahead of the scheme's implementation; however, the Government envisages wide spread use of Green Deal finance, with the capital requirement running into billions of pounds over time.

Nuclear Installations: Security

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what assessment he has made of the merits of implementing force-to-force security protection exercises at UK nuclear installations; and what discussions he has had with his US counterpart on the effectiveness of such exercises at US civil and military nuclear facilities; [23438]

(2) what assessment he has made of the adequacy of physical protection measures at UK nuclear installations against attack from laser-guided anti-tank shoulder-fired weapons; [23439]

(3) if he will discuss with his Russian counterpart the force-on-force security system tests on purpose-built dummy reactor buildings which Russian security forces have conducted using AT14 Kornet/Spriggen weapons. [23440]

Charles Hendry: Security at UK civil nuclear sites is kept under continuous review to ensure its effectiveness and arrangements take account of international guidance and best practice. In assessing the level of threat to these sites from a malicious attack, the industry's regulator, the Office for Civil Nuclear Security (OCNS), gives full consideration to the available intelligence on the methods, capabilities and intentions of terrorist groups and potential adversaries therefore enabling appropriate physical protection and other security measures to be put into place. The Government do not comment on the detail of security matters at civil nuclear sites.

Nuclear Power

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what consideration he has given to introducing a requirement for anti-spall protective coating on external surfaces of nuclear power plants and associated on-site radioactive waste stores; [23894]

(2) what assessment he has made of the adequacy of security measures at nuclear energy installations against the use of recoilless guns firing kinetic munitions; [23895]

(3) what assessment he has made of the adequacy of security protective measures at coastal located nuclear installations against malevolent paramilitary terrorist attack from ship-fired *(a)* Chinese-manufactured c-802 missiles, *(b)* French-manufactured MILAN missiles, *(c)* Iranian-manufactured Toophan missiles and *(d)* US-manufactured TOW missiles; [23896]

(4) what estimate he has made of the resilience of UK civil nuclear installations against malevolent paramilitary terrorist attacks. [23898]

Charles Hendry: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her today to Questions 23438,23439 and 23440.

Renewable Energy

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the prospects of reaching the 2020 target for renewable electricity generation. [23836]

Charles Hendry *[holding answer 12 November 2010]:* The Renewable Energy Directive 2009 sets the UK a legally binding target to ensure that 15% of our energy (electricity, heat and transport) comes from renewable sources by 2020.

Analysis published in 2009 demonstrated that while our target is challenging, it is achievable. We are committed to creating the right conditions for companies to invest in renewable energy projects, including the provision of appropriate incentives and the removal of financial barriers.

Renewable Energy: Heating

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what funding his Department has allocated in respect of *(a)* the renewable heating initiative and *(b)* the feed-in tariff scheme to take account of the implementation of proposals contained in the comprehensive spending review in (i) 2011-12 and (ii) 2012-13. [23905]

Charles Hendry: The spending review confirmed that the feed-in tariff would continue as planned for 2010-11 to 2013-14. For 2014-15, the Government have committed to finding savings of 10% on previous plans. These will be introduced as part of the scheduled review unless deployment under the scheme is significantly higher than expected.

The spending review confirmed that the renewable heat incentive will go ahead from 2011, with savings found of 5%, 10%, 15% and 20% for 2011-12 to 2014-15 respectively, relative to the proposals that the previous administration consulted on in February. Spending through the scheme is expected to exceed £850 million over the spending review period. The spending review announced this would be funded directly by government, instead of through the overly complex renewable heat levy.

The Office for Budget Responsibility is planning to publish its forecasts for spending through both schemes with its autumn forecast on 29 November.

Sustainable Development

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what contracts have been placed with *(a)* the Energy Savings Trust and *(b)* the Carbon Trust to advise on implementation of (i) energy savings plans and (ii) sustainable development programmes in Government Departments; and what the monetary value has been of each such contract since May 2010. [23889]

Gregory Barker: Neither the Energy Saving Trust nor the Carbon Trust have contracts with Government Departments for advice relating to energy savings plans or sustainable development plans.

The Carbon Trust is supporting 10 Government Departments as well as executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies in developing and implementing energy saving plans as part of its central Government Carbon Management Service which launched in May 2010. The costs of providing this service are met from the core grant which DECC has provided to the Carbon Trust for 2010-11.

Wind Power

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what research his Department has undertaken into mechanisms to measure offshore wind speed. [23293]

Charles Hendry: The Meteorological Office measures offshore wind speeds, using its network of Marine Automatic Weather Stations and assimilates information from satellites into its weather forecasting model to estimate wind speeds.

Information on offshore wind speed, based on modelling work by the Meteorological Office, is available in the Atlas of Marine Renewable Energy Resources. This was last published by the then Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (now BIS) in 2007 and can be accessed at:

http://www.renewables-atlas.info/wind_map.aspx

For individual sites, offshore wind farm developers undertake their own wind speed studies and these results are required to be submitted under lease conditions imposed by The Crown Estate.

TREASURY

Air Passenger Duty: Caribbean

Kate Hoey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what *(a)* representations he has received from and *(b)* meetings he has had with representatives of Caribbean communities about the proposed changes to air passenger duty; [23321]

(2) what estimate he has made of the likely level of revenue which will accrue from the implementation of the proposed changes to air passenger duty for flights to the Caribbean; [23322]

(3) what assessment his Department has made of the implementation of the proposed changes to air passenger duty on the annual number of *(a)* passengers travelling and *(b)* trips taken to the Caribbean from the UK. [23323]

Justine Greening: The June Budget stated that the Government will explore changes to the aviation tax system, including switching from a per-passenger to a per-plane duty. Major changes will be subject to consultation.

Since June, I have received representations and met with a number of stakeholder and industry groups, including representatives from the Caribbean countries.

Bank Levy

Pat Glass: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) for what reason he changed the proposed £20 billion threshold for the bank levy to a £20 billion allowance; [23350]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the effect on the Exchequer of his decision to implement the bank levy on the basis of a £20 billion *(a)* threshold and *(b)* allowance. [23351]

Mr Hoban: Details of the Government's decision to introduce an allowance on the first £20 billion of relevant liabilities were set out in chapter 3 of the Government's consultation response published alongside the draft legislation on 21 October.

This is available on HM Treasury website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/fin_bank_levy.htm

paragraphs 3.4 to 3.5.

Bank Services: Regulation

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* regulations and *(b)* guidance govern the maximum period within which banks and building societies must issue final payments when requests are made to close accounts. [R] [24115]

Mr Hoban: The rules governing maximum payment periods, including on the closure of an account are set out in the EU's Payment Services Regulations 2009.

There are separate rules for the different types of account and different types of payment.

Regulation 72 of the Payment Services Regulations provides that cash deposited by a consumer in a payment account, such as a current account, must be made available to the consumer immediately. The regulations also set specific times for making payments to a person's payment account. The regulations do not apply to accounts, such as some savings accounts, that do not provide a payment service.

When closing one account in order to switch to another account, the Financial Services Authority's (FSA) rules say that both the old and new banks must provide a prompt and efficient service. Guidance issued by the banking industry calls funds to be dispatched in line with the customer's instructions on the day an account is closed, promptly and where possible by same working day. The guidance also calls for switching a current account to be completed within 10 working days. Switching a cash ISA may take up to 30 days. However, industry has committed to bring this down to 15 working days by the end of 2010.

Budgets: Environment Protection

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which body is responsible for evaluating the environmental sustainability of budget proposals; and if he will make a statement. [23800]

Justine Greening: The Treasury is responsible for assessing the environmental impacts of Budget proposals. The exact environmental impact of the spending review will depend on the decisions of individual Departments, as set out in box 2.4 of the spending review document.

Bureaux de Change: Regulation

Jake Berry: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to bring forward proposals for sector-specific regulation of retail foreign currency exchange services. [23237]

Mr Hoban: The administrators are reviewing the trading operations of Crown Currency Exchange, its financial position and the conduct of its directors. Once the administrators have reported, the Government will look closely at this case to see what lessons need to be learned from the failure of the company.

Child Benefit

Paul Flynn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the amount his Department paid in child benefit in respect of families of those paying income tax at the higher rate in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will estimate the increase in the higher rate of income tax required to accrue the equivalent sum to the Exchequer. [17708]

Mr Gauke: The amount HMRC is estimated to be paying in child benefit in respect of families of those paying income tax at the higher rate in 2010-11 is £2.0 billion.

The increase in the higher rate of income tax required to accrue the equivalent sum to the Exchequer is around 2%.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department assessed the merits of using a system of means-testing similar to that used for the allocation of tax credits in developing its proposals for changes in the administration of child benefit. [23667]

Mr Gauke: The Government consider a range of options when formulating policy. The Chancellor announced that child benefit will be withdrawn from families containing a higher rate taxpayer from January 2013, as it is not fair for those earning just £15,000 or £30,000 to go on paying the child benefit of those earning £50,000 or £100,000 and that no further changes to child benefit are required.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of mothers who will lose their entitlement to a state pension as a result of the withdrawal of child benefit from couples with a higher rate taxpayer. [24264]

Mr Hoban: The withdrawal of child benefit from families containing a higher rate taxpayer will not affect national insurance credits for state pension entitlement.

Child Benefit: Scotland

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* East Ayrshire and *(c)* Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituency cease to be eligible to claim child benefit as a result of being in the higher tax allowance bracket. [22635]

Mr Gauke: The number of households affected by the withdrawal of child benefit from families with a higher rate tax payer in 2013 in Scotland is estimated to be about 120,000.

Information on household income for child benefit claimants is not available at geographical levels below Government office region.

Comprehensive Spending Review

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what aspects of the reforms to the welfare system announced in *(a)* the June Budget 2010 and *(b)* the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) were (i) included and (ii) not included in his Department's modelling of the distributional analysis of the outcomes of the CSR. [21473]

Mr Gauke: The policies that could be modelled account for around two-thirds of tax, tax credit and benefit changes coming into effect in 2012-13. These are measures for which there are sufficiently robust data to attribute changes in tax, tax credits or benefits to individuals. The full list of modelled measures can be found in the 'Spending Review 2010: Distributional Impact Analysis—data sources' document. The full list of welfare measures announced in the June Budget 2010 can be found in Table 2.1 of the 'Budget 2010' document; the full list of welfare measures announced in the spending review 2010 can be found in Table 3 of the 'Spending Review 2010' document.

Corporation Tax

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the corporation tax receipts from each business sector were in each of the last three years. [22868]

Mr Gauke: Historical figures for corporation tax receipts paid by several broadly-defined business sectors are regularly updated and published in Table 11.1, on the HMRC National Statistics website. The latest update is available here:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/corporate_tax/table11_1.pdf

Crown Currency Exchange

Helen Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions HM Revenue and Customs was contacted with concerns about Crown Currency Exchange Limited before its collapse; and which *(a)* organisations and *(b)* individuals made such contacts. [23073]

Mr Hoban: All information received by HM Revenue and Customs is carefully considered and where it relates to HMRC's responsibilities action is taken as appropriate. However, section 18 of the Commissioners of Revenue and Customs Act 2005 does not permit HM Revenue and Customs to comment on the affairs of individual customers.

Departmental Regulation

Mr Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what regulations his Department plans to *(a)* repeal and *(b)* amend in the next five years. [23081]

Justine Greening: The Government's regulatory Forward Programme is due to be published later this year and will provide details of all forthcoming regulation.

My Department is reviewing the pipeline of legislation inherited from the previous administration and much of this work is well advanced. We will work to identify regulations that could be removed to comply with "One in One out"—the Government's commitment that new regulation will be offset by a corresponding equivalent reduction in regulatory burdens.

Equitable Life Assurance Society: Compensation

Paul Uppal: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of people that will be affected by his decision not to include Equitable Life with-profits annuitants who drew their pension before September 1992 in his proposed compensation scheme. [21909]

Mr Hoban: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Cotswold (Geoffrey Clifton-Brown) on 9 November, *Official Report*, column 286W.

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 20 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 54-56WS, on the Equitable Life Payment Scheme, for what reason with profits annuitants with Equitable Life who opened their policies before 1 September 1992 will not be recompensed for their relative losses. [22434]

Mr Hoban *[holding answer 8 November 2010]*: This Government are committed to implementing the Parliamentary Ombudsman's recommendation to introduce a fair and transparent payments scheme to Equitable Life policyholders for their relative loss as a result of regulatory failure. With Profits Annuitants (WPAs) who took out policies before 1 September 1992 did so before any maladministration could have affected their decisions, so suffered no relative loss and therefore have not been included in the Government's proposed payment scheme.

Government Departments: Cost-effectiveness

Dr Pugh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what progress has been made towards the target of £30 billion of efficiency savings set in the 2007 comprehensive spending review; [16752]

(2) which Departments *(a)* met and *(b)* did not meet efficiency savings targets agreed with his Department in each of the last three financial years. [17985]

Danny Alexander: £14.7 billion of efficiency savings were reported by Departments in their 2010 spring departmental reports, showing that less than 50% of the £35 billion target savings had been achieved two years into a three-year programme.

The NAO audited a sample of the reported savings and, in its compendium report on the CSR07 VFM programme (HC 291), described just over one-third of these savings as genuine. Applied to the reported savings, this would imply that only £5.59 billion are genuine—less than 20% of the £35 billion target savings.

The NAO further noted HC 291 that:

> "Our recurring concerns and the slower than expected progress reported to date mean it is unlikely that departments will deliver £35bn of savings which fully meet the CSR07 criteria."

and this target-based approach had:

> "not made a significant impact on how departments do their business"

and as having:

> "complex and sometimes counter-intuitive criteria."

The Government announced in spending review 2010 a more specific and innovative approach to efficiency and reform across the public sector, including:

> a reduction in administration budgets of 34% across the whole of Whitehall and its arm's length bodies saving £5.9 billion a year by 2014-15;
>
> radically reducing the number of arm's length bodies across government; and
>
> the Efficiency and Reform Group's tough new efficiency regime which will drive savings in procurement, major projects and estate management.

As a result, Departments will no longer be required to report against the previous Government's failed efficiency target.

National Insurance Fund

Steve Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the reasons are for the difference between the estimate of the surplus of the National Insurance Fund published by the Government Actuary's Department in January 2010 and the National Insurance Fund balance invested, as recorded by the Debt Management Office. [23463]

Mr Gauke: The Government Actuary's Department (GAD) estimate in January 2010 was based on a number of assumptions, including the HM Treasury pre-Budget report published in December 2009. As actual outturn contribution receipts for 2009-10 were lower than GAD's estimate, the amount available to be deposited by the National Insurance Fund (NIF) into the Investment Account by the UK Debt Management Office (DMO) on behalf of the NIF was consequently lower than GAD's estimate. The DMO account shows the actual cash held in the fund as at 31 March 2010 and is not influenced by the GAD estimate.

Personal Income

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 4 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 906W, on personal income, when he expects HM Revenue and Customs to publish data relating to the number of millionaires residing in the UK in each year since 2005; and what proportion of millionaires' income tax liability was collected in each year since 2000-01. [23826]

Mr Gauke: HMRC are currently consulting users on a proposed new methodology for the personal wealth statistics, which closes in January 2011. Depending on the outcome of the consultation, HMRC hope to be able to publish updated wealth statistics in 2011.

More recent wealth information is already available from the Office for National Statistics' Wealth and Asset Survey:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_economy/wealth-assets-2006-2008/Wealth_in_GB_2006_2008.pdf

However, the report focuses on wealth at a household level and does not contain an estimate of the number of millionaires.

Information on the proportion of millionaires' income tax liability that was collected in each year since 2000-01 is not available.

Private Finance Initiative: Carlisle

John Stevenson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what private finance initiative schemes there are in Carlisle constituency. [22806]

Danny Alexander: A list of signed and in procurement PFI projects can be found on HM Treasury's website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/ppp_pfi_stats.htm

For each PFI project, this list details the project name, the capital value, the constituency, the procuring authority and whether it is on or off balance sheet; as used by the ONS in calculating public sector net debt.

This indicates that there are currently three closed PFI projects in Carlisle;

1. The Carlisle Northern Development Route;
2. The A69 Carlisle to Newcastle; and
3. The Cumberland Infirmary (North Cumbria University Hospitals NHS Trust).

Revenue and Customs: Bank Services

Julian Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the bank accounts used by HM Revenue and Customs have faster payment banking facilities. [21374]

Mr Gauke: HMRC does not operate faster payment banking facilities. When the Faster Payments Service (FPS) was introduced in 2008 the Bank of England was HMRC's main banking supplier. The Bank of England had already taken a strategic decision to withdraw from the provision of retail banking services and consequently did not join the FPS. HMRC's new banking suppliers are RBS and Citibank, both are members of the FPS. HMRC has outline plans to develop its capacity to deliver faster payments; however, other departmental priorities mean it has not been possible to commission the necessary system changes to facilitate this. HMRC continues to keep this under review and will seek to develop its capacity to deliver faster payments when resources allow.

Revenue and Customs: Christmas

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to ensure that staff working in the Debt Management Telephone Centre business unit of HM Revenue and Customs are consulted on working hours to be scheduled for *(a)* 25 December 2010 and *(b)* 26 December 2010. [24256]

Mr Gauke: HMRC have concluded that there is no business need for its Debt Management Telephone Centres to open on 25 and 26 December 2010. Discussions have already been held with both staff and unions about the associated working hours and leave arrangements.

Revenue and Customs: Inspections

Mike Freer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the average annual *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of higher-rate taxpayers who are subject to an HM Revenue and Customs tax inspection. [20973]

Mr Gauke: There are approximately 3.1 million higher-rate taxpayers. Any risks identified in the returns of these individuals are largely handled by Local Compliance. Without incurring disproportionate cost we are unable to breakdown the proportion of interventions that we carry out specifically to isolate the higher rate taxpayers.

Travel: Concessions

Mr Crausby: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with pensioners' groups on the future of national free travel for pensioners. [24020]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households were means-tested for tax credit eligibility in 2009-10; and what the cost to HM Revenue and Customs was of such testing. [23367]

Mr Gauke: Eligibility for tax credits is defined in the Tax Credits Act 2002 and tax credits regulations. Other than those claimants who are in receipt of income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance, income-based employment and support allowance and the state pension credit, all tax credits awards are automatically calculated by reference to annual household income. It is not possible therefore to identify the cost of determining eligibility for tax credits.

Welfare Tax Credits: Lone Parents

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has made a recent estimate of the proportion of working single mothers receiving tax credits who work *(a)* 16, *(b)* 17 to 20, *(c)* 21 to 25 and *(d)* over 25 hours a week. [21741]

Mr Gauke: The information, as of April 2010, is provided in the following table:

Weekly hours worked by single mother	*Number of single mothers*	*Percentage of all working single mothers in tax credits*
Less than 16 hours	27,000	2
16 hours	215,000	19
17 to 20 hours	185,000	16
21 to 25 hours	144,000	13
More than 25 hours	570,000	50

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the contribution of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health on 2 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 899, which two independent sector abortions providers will meet the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State; if he will place in the Library a copy of *(a)* the agenda, *(b)* any material produced for the meeting and *(c)* a note of the meeting; and if he will make a statement. [23714]

Anne Milton: I will be meeting with the British Pregnancy Advisory Service and Marie Stopes International on 29 November 2010. Following this meeting, I will place the requested information in the Library.

Accident and Emergency Departments: Standards

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of likely average waiting times in accident and emergency departments in each of the next five years. [24212]

Mr Simon Burns: No estimate has been made of likely average waiting times over the next five years for accident and emergency (A&E) departments in England. While the Department recognises the importance of timeliness, quality of care requires consideration of a broader set of issues. For this reason, we plan to introduce new clinical quality indicators for A&E departments in April 2011, to replace the current four hour waiting time process target. These will look at quality of care as a whole, including timeliness.

Cancer: Older People

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent assessment he has made of the accuracy of diagnoses of cancer in the NHS of those aged 65 years and over; and what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the relationship between age and accuracy of cancer diagnoses; [23231]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the factors underlying the outcomes of cancer treatment in those aged 65 years and over; and if he will make a statement. [23233]

Paul Burstow: As part of the work of the Department's National Awareness and Early Diagnosis Initiative, the National Cancer Action Team supported the Royal College of General Practitioners and the University of Durham to undertake a national audit of cancer diagnosis in primary care to identify ways to improve clinical practice and service delivery.

The audit has enabled local analysis of the factors that influence diagnosis in primary care. Full analysis has not yet been completed, and therefore no central assessment has yet been made of the relationship between age and diagnosis in primary care based on these data. It is anticipated that the findings of the report will be available in spring 2011.

The Department is working with Macmillan Cancer Support on a jointly funded project that aims to understand barriers to treatment and to improve appropriate intervention rates for people over 70 who have a cancer diagnosis. The pilot programme aims to identify, test and evaluate ways to assess an older person for cancer treatment; to provide practical support and information to aid patient/practitioner decision making; and to train professionals involved in the pathway to promote age equality and address age discrimination.

It is anticipated that the pilot projects will run for a 12-month period with the pilots taking place between May 2011 and April 2012. We will then evaluate whether the approaches tested can have a positive impact on intervention and mortality rates for older people.

Care Homes: Fees and Charges

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the regulation regime for care home fees; and whether his Department has assessed the merit of imposing an upper limit to prevent excessive fees. [23302]

Paul Burstow: Care home fees are not regulated.

Contracts between care homes and people who arrange their own care are a matter for the homeowner and the individual resident.

Almost all care homes are run by the independent sector. For local authority supported residents, contracting arrangements between local authorities and independent sector care homes are a matter for local negotiation. The Government do not set or recommend the level of the fees that local authorities pay.

It would not be appropriate for the Government to interfere in commercial decisions by private businesses about the level of fees they negotiate with individuals and organisations for providing care.

Care Homes: Inspections

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many reports on care homes on the Care Quality Commission website were issued *(a)* up to six months ago, *(b)* up to one year ago, *(c)* up to 18 months ago and *(d)* over two years ago . [24268]

Paul Burstow: The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has provided the following information.

The CQC website hosts the following reports on providers of adult social care, as at 11 November 2010 and based on the date of publication of the report.

Age of report	*Number of reports*
Up to six months	3,999
Between six and 12 months	9,175
Between 12 and 18 months	8,613

Age of report	*Number of reports*
Between 18 and 24 months	7,137
Over 24 months	119,566
Total	148,490

CQC has also advised that it holds an additional 199 reports that are not included in the total above because CQC is not able to put them in date order due to lack of data.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will review the provision of information on the Care Quality Commission website on the inspection of care homes to ensure that it is up-to-date. [24269]

Paul Burstow: The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is the independent regulator of health and adult social care for England.

CQC inspection reports reflect an inspection made at a given point in time. When a new report is published, the previous report is not out of date; it becomes a historic record that continues to be available. Reports are presented in chronological order and are clearly date stamped.

Any report not on CQC's website can be requested through CQC's contact centre.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many care homes had not been inspected by the Care Quality Commission by the due date for such inspections in the latest period for which figures are available. [24270]

Paul Burstow: Under the Care Standards Act 2000, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) was required to carry out an inspection of care homes every three years.

CQC took over from the Commission for Social Care Inspection, the Healthcare Commission and the Mental Health Act Commission as the independent regulator of health and adult social care on 1 April 2009.

CQC has advised that, according to its records, since 1 April 2009, 10 care homes have not had an inspection within a three-year period of the previous inspection. All other care homes in England have had an inspection within the required three-year period.

Of those 10 care homes, four had an inspection during 2010.

Since 1 October 2010, care homes have been regulated under the new framework introduced by the Health and Social Care Act 2008. The 2008 Act does not specify a due date for inspections, but CQC is required to act in a way that is targeted and proportionate to the risks against which it affords safeguards.

Clostridium

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration he has given to the use of prebiotics for the prevention of clostridium difficile in hospitals. [23750]

Anne Milton: There is currently insufficient evidence to show that prebiotics offer benefits in a hospital setting to be able to make a general recommendation. We will keep this issue under review. A balanced diet is important to the well-being of all patients.

Death Certificates

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will ensure that death certificates reflect contributing factors in the death of people with *(a)* diabetes and *(b)* other long-term conditions. [23385]

Paul Burstow: Information included by attending practitioners on Medical Certificates of Cause of Death (MCCDs) is an important source of data about the mortality associated with different diseases for clinicians, those responsible for planning and managing health services, and for the general population—both relatives of those who may have died and those who may be at risk of specific diseases. The Chief Medical Officer wrote to all medical staff working in the national health service in October 2007 to remind them that death certification is a significant responsibility for doctors and should reflect a careful consideration of all the events that led up to, and may have caused or contributed to, the person's death.

The Government's proposed reform of the death certification process will improve the quality and accuracy of MCCDs. Medical examiners, when appointed, will confirm cause of death in all cases not investigated by a coroner, regardless of form of disposal. Doctors completing MCCDs will be able to discuss cause(s) of death with an independent medical examiner, thereby improving the quality and accuracy of certification. Implementation of the reforms is due to commence in April 2012.

Dental Services

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether dentists are to be represented on *(a)* the National Commissioning Board and *(b)* the Public Health Board. [23234]

Mr Simon Burns: We intend to introduce legislation to establish the NHS Commissioning Board later this year. The Health Bill will set out further details about the membership of the Board and the process for making appointments. As set out in the White Paper 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS', the Government's intention is that the NHS Commissioning Board will commission dental services and it will therefore need to have access to appropriate clinical dental advice. The Government's proposals for establishing a new Public Health Service will be set out in a forthcoming Public Health White Paper.

Diabetes: Nutrition

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will assess the standard of nutrition provided to diabetics in hospitals; and if he will make a statement. [23370]

Anne Milton: Neither the Food Standards Agency nor Diabetes UK (formerly the British Diabetic Association) recommends special diabetic products for people with diabetes.

Since April 2010, it has been a requirement of a hospital's continuing registration with the Care Quality Commission (CQC), that service users are protected from the risks of inadequate nutrition and dehydration. The CQC will assess trusts against this requirement and have tough enforcement powers in cases where the proper standards are not being met.

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of people with diabetes are participating in *(a)* dose adjustment for normal eating, *(b)* diabetes education and self-management for newly-diagnosed and *(c)* other structured educational programmes in (i) Crawley constituency and (ii) nationally. [23384]

Paul Burstow: There are a number of national and locally developed patient education programmes available and a range of tools and guidance to help local services choose the best programmes to meet the needs of their local population.

In the Crawley area, there are two Diabetes Education and Self-Management for Newly Diagnosed (DESMOND) courses running per month, which means a provision for 20 patients per month to attend a DESMOND newly diagnosed course. Although not all courses are run with maximum capacity. Between April and October 2010, 86 patients attended in Crawley.

The Department does not collate information on the numbers of people participating in structured education programmes for diabetes.

Dietary Supplements: Channel Islands

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when Ministers in his Department next plan to visit Jersey to discuss the implementation of the EU Food Supplements Directive and the Nutrition and Health Claims Regulations; [23565]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the governments of *(a)* Jersey and *(b)* Guernsey on the implementation of the EU Food Supplements Directive and the Nutrition and Health Claims Regulations in their states; whether he has received an implementation timetable from (i) Jersey and (ii) Guernsey; and if he will make a statement. [23566]

Anne Milton: Policy responsibility for the Crown Dependencies lies with the Ministry of Justice. I understand that my noble Friend the Minister of State for Justice (Lord McNally) raised the implementation of the Food Supplements Directive and the Nutrition and Health Claims Regulation with the Guernsey authorities, during his visit to the Island on 24 September 2010 and expects to raise the issue with the Jersey authorities in the course of his forthcoming visit there, as indicated in the answer given on 1 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 508W.

Health Ministers have not had discussions with the authorities in Jersey and Guernsey and do not have any plans to visit Jersey at this time.

Departmental officials have had discussions with a range of groups to help progress this issue, including the food supplements industry in the United Kingdom, the Ministry of Justice, HM Treasury, HM Revenue and Customs and the Governments of Jersey and Guernsey.

General Practitioners

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the per patient fee from his Department will be for GP commissioners following the abolition of primary care trusts. [24125]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" proposed that the commissioning budgets allotted to general practitioner consortia would include a maximum allowance for the administrative costs associated with commissioning. Consortia will be free to decide how to use this allowance to carry out commissioning activities. With the exception of this allowance, the consortium's commissioning budget will have to be used exclusively for the commissioning of patient care. The Department will announce later this year what the level of allowance will be.

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the debt held by primary care trusts (PCTs) will be passed on to GPs' practices once PCTs are abolished. [24129]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department is working with the strategic health authorities to address circumstances where primary care trusts (PCTs) owe money, with the expectation that any debt will be fully resolved by the end of 2012-13. The issue of PCT debt will be covered in further detail in the NHS Operating Framework for 2011-12.

Herbal Medicine: Jersey

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with the government of Jersey on the timescale for implementation of proposals that all manufactured herbal medicines in Jersey should be registered with the UK's traditional herbal medicine registration scheme. [24248]

Mr Simon Burns: The Secretary of State has had no recent discussions with the Government of Jersey on the herbal medicine registration scheme.

Following a meeting last year between Jersey and Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency officials on the implementation of European medicines legislation, there have been ongoing discussions.

Hospitals: Meat

Mr Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will review levels of meat consumption in hospitals for the purpose of improving public health; [23135]

(2) whether he is taking steps to reduce levels of meat consumption for the purpose of improving public health. [23139]

Anne Milton: Evidence on the relationship between red and processed meat consumption and colorectal cancer risk and the impact of a recommendation to reduce meat consumption has been considered by the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN) as part of a review on iron and health. It is anticipated that the SACN report on iron and health will be published towards the end of the year.

The Department will review its advice on meat consumption after considering the recommendations from the SACN report on iron and health.

In Vitro Fertilisation

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people received IVF treatment on the NHS in each year since 2000; [23341]

(2) what the success rate of births using IVF has been in each year since 2005. [23476]

Anne Milton: Information on the number of in vitro fertilisation (IVF) treatment cycles funded by the national health service is not collected centrally by either the Government or the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA).

The following table shows the percentage of live births per treatment cycle started for each year from 2005 to 2008. This is based on data contained in the HFEA's register at 9 November 2010.

	Percentage of live births per cycle started
2005	21.7
2006	23.0
2007	23.7
2008	24.1

Outcome data up to 31 December 2008 have been subject to the HFEA's verification procedure. Data returns for 2009 are not currently complete and are scheduled for verification by the end of October 2011 in accordance with the HFEA's normal procedures.

Insulin

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects on quality of patient treatment of discontinuation of Novo Mixtard 30 insulin. [23251]

Paul Burstow: Decisions about discontinuations of medicines are commercial decisions for the company concerned and the Department has in place well established guidelines to ensure that the effect of discontinuations on patient care is minimised.

The Department has been working together with Novo Nordisk to ensure that people affected by this change have access to the support they need.

The Department has not undertaken an assessment of the effects on the quality of patient treatment, following the discontinuation of Novo Mixtard 30 insulin.

NHS 111

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the staff grades will be of nurses assigned to the proposed 111 NHS system; and what assessment he has made of the efficacy of using staff at such grades. [23371]

Mr Simon Burns: The most appropriate staff mix for NHS 111 call handling must be evidence based and reflect the needs of commissioners, which is why we are piloting the service. We will collect and publish evaluation data from the pilots, which will be made available to commissioners. There will not be a centrally mandated approach to staffing NHS 111, and commissioners will be free to determine what is best for their patients.

In the NHS 111 County Durham and Darlington pilot, calls that are referred to a clinician are handled by a Band 5 nurse or paramedic. The service also requires a level of clinical supervision at all times, which is provided by Band 6 nurses.

NHS: Publications

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS bodies his Department requires to produce *(a)* annual reports and *(b)* other publications; if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of such publications in each of the last three years; and if he will take steps to reduce the number of such publications. [20607]

Mr Simon Burns: All national health service bodies are required by primary legislation to produce annual reports and accounts in the interests of public and parliamentary accountability. Details of costs are not collected by the Department.

The Health Act 2009 created a further duty on providers of NHS healthcare—whether they are NHS bodies or not—to publish an annual Quality Account. In the first year, 2009-10, some 200 such bodies published Quality Accounts, at an estimated cost of some £14,000 per organisation.

Also, the NHS Operating Framework currently requires primary care trusts, as part of their local accountability, to publish their performance against the vital signs indicator set and for 2010 -11 to publish with their partners how they are implementing the National Dementia Strategy.

The Department imposes as few reporting requirements on NHS bodies as possible while ensuring proper accountability by them and ensuring that they operate effectively, efficiently and economically. For example, Quality Accounts were designed and tested with NHS bodies, with a view to minimising the burden.

North Manchester Hospital: Accident and Emergency Departments

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consultation he has undertaken on the future of the accident and emergency unit at North Manchester General Hospital. [23751]

Mr Simon Burns: The Secretary of State has undertaken no such consultation. Responsibility for local health services lies with the national health service locally. It is for local commissioners to lead and consult on any proposals for local service change.

This Government are committed to devolving power to local communities—to the people, patients, general practitioners (GPs) and councils, who are best placed to determine the nature of their national health services locally. The Government have pledged that, in future, all service changes must be led by clinicians and patients, not be driven from the top down. To this end, we have outlined new, strengthened criteria that decisions on NHS service changes must meet.

They must focus on improving patient outcomes; consider patient choice; have support from GP commissioners; and be based on sound clinical evidence.

NHS North West approved the assessment that the Healthy Futures reconfiguration met this criteria on 3 November 2010. The National Clinical Advisory Team report on Healthy Futures, provided as evidence for the Healthy Futures review, supported the clinical case for change and made recommendations to assess the options to centralise some services, including emergency care, on one site in the Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust. It is for local commissioners to consider the application of these recommendations locally.

Ophthalmic Services

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what discussions his Department has had with representatives of opticians and optometrists on the introduction in England of a scheme equivalent to the Primary Eyecare Acute Referral Scheme in Wales; and if he will make a statement; [23186]

(2) what assessment he has made of the likely effects on *(a)* clinical outcomes, *(b)* value for money and *(c)* levels of patient satisfaction of introducing in England a scheme equivalent to the Primary Eyecare Acute Referral Scheme in Wales; and if he will make a statement. [23187]

Mr Simon Burns: Departmental officials have regular meetings with representatives of the optical sector, as well as organisations representing service users and other professionals.

Health is a devolved matter. In England, our view is that local health communities are best placed to decide how to develop eye care services and improve visual health in ways that reflect local needs and circumstances. Currently primary care trusts perform this role. Under our proposed reforms, it will be for local commissioning consortia. The proposed NHS Commissioning Board will provide advice to consortia.

We will keep developments in other parts of the United Kingdom under review and will assess evidence that emerges about the clinical and cost effectiveness of the service models developed there.

Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust: Clostridium

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many clostridium difficile infections were reported by Pennine Acute Hospitals *(a)* in total, *(b)* in those aged over 65 years and *(c)* that are trust apportioned in each of the last five years; and how many such infections have been reported in each such case in 2010 to date. [23749]

Anne Milton: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Clostridium difficile infections reported by Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust

	(a) Total cases (all patients aged two years and over)	*(b) Total cases (patients aged 65 years and over)*	*(c) Total trust-apportioned cases (all patients aged two years and over)*
2005	[1]—	305	[1]—
2006	[1]—	558	[1]—
2007	[2]431	555	[2]293
2008	663	546	392
2009	587	448	290
2010	[3]119	[3]97	[4]154

[1] Not collected.

[2] These data were not collected until April 2007; totals for this year (2007) are for April to December 2007 only.

[3] These data are for January to March 2010 only. The rest of the 2010 data will be published in July 2011 as part of the HPA publication plan.

[4] These data are published on a monthly basis and the 2010 data covers January to September 2010.

Source:

Health Protection Agency (HPA).

Smallpox: Vaccination

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 8 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 159W, on smallpox: vaccination, what estimate he has made of the number of those personnel who were vaccinated against smallpox in 2005 who continue to work in a relevant frontline health position; and what plans he has to maintain the strength of the cohort of vaccinated personnel. [23867]

Anne Milton: The strength of the cohort of vaccinated front line health workers to deal with any initial suspected or confirmed case of smallpox, if one were to occur, is based in part on the threat level outlined in the National Risk Assessment (NRA). The NRA is a classified annual assessment of the risks (accidents, natural events and malicious attacks) facing the United Kingdom over a five year period. Based on the current risk, there is no proposal to change the number of people currently in the cohort.

Social Services: Redcar

Ian Swales: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to improve the standard of Redcar and Cleveland Council's adult social care services; and if he will make a statement. [23961]

Paul Burstow: The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has inspected this council and has identified the improvements that are needed.

CQC is working with the local authority to draft an improvement action plan, which will be supported by the Department's Deputy Regional Director (DRD) of Adult Social Care and Partnerships in the North East.

Recognising that safeguarding adults is a critical part of local authority service delivery, the North East Association of Directors of Adult Social Services, working with the DRD, has recently commissioned a report into safeguarding in the region.

Recommendations include agreeing a consistent criteria for establishing thresholds in relation to safeguarding adults. The DRD is supporting this further work with all 12 councils in the North East, including Redcar and Cleveland.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Azerbaijan: Travel Information

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what advice his Department makes available to British citizens intending to travel to Azerbaijan. [23811]

Mr Lidington: Information for British citizens wishing to travel to Azerbaijan is made available through the travel advice pages of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website:

www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country

Travel advice for Azerbaijan is updated regularly. The advice currently states that we advise against all travel to Nagorno-Karabakh and the militarily occupied area surrounding it. The travel advice was last updated on 21 October 2010 following a change in the Azerbaijani visa regime. Expert advice and practical support for UK business representatives wishing to do business in Azerbaijan is available from UK Trade and Investment.

Diplomatic Service: Domestic Service

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what mechanisms are in place to ensure that the employment rights of domestic staff of diplomatic staff in the UK are upheld. [24089]

Alistair Burt: Article 41 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations 1961 states that, without prejudice to their privileges and immunities, it is the duty of all diplomats 'to respect the laws and regulations of the receiving State'. This includes employment laws. In August 2010, Protocol Directorate of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office issued a Note to all diplomatic missions reminding them of their responsibilities with regard to the employment of domestic servants. Government Departments work together and with non-governmental organisations to monitor the employment rights of domestic workers in foreign diplomatic households in the UK.

EU Law

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions the Government has objected to a proposed first reading agreement between the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers in the last 10 years; in respect of which Directives the objections were made; and what the outcome of the objection was in each case. [21715]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not hold this information and to obtain it would incur disproportionate cost.

Hezbollah

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to support the enforcement of UN Resolution 1701 in respect of disarming Hezbollah. [24223]

Alistair Burt: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister discussed UN Security Council Resolution 1701 with Prime Minister Hariri during his recent visit to the UK, underlining the need for Hezbollah to disarm to ensure the stability of Lebanon.

During my visit to Damascus in July, I made clear and firm representations to Foreign Minister Muallem in support of UN Security Council Resolution 1701. We are strongly committed to the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1701: this is the best means of achieving stability in Lebanon. I also raised the issue of weapons smuggling in Lebanon and underlined concerns about reports of Syrian facilitation of arms to Hezbollah. My officials continue to raise these issues at the highest level during our regular dialogue with Syrian counterparts.

The UN Security Council, under UK presidency, will be debating UN Security Council Resolution 1701 on 18 November, and will include discussions on the issue of Hezbollah arms.

International Assistance: Children

Fiona Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the potential contribution of his Department's diplomatic networks to international efforts to assist street children. [24117]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The UK is committed to improving the situation of street children internationally. We work bilaterally, in multilateral forums and through programme work to promote and protect the rights of all children as set out in the UN convention on the rights of the child.

Globally our embassies are responsible for monitoring and raising human rights issues—including the situation of street children—in their host countries.

For example, in South Africa, our high commission in Pretoria is working to address the problems faced by street children by supporting the work of 'Umthombo', a South African charity for street children run by former street children, and in India we continue to encourage India to ratify and implement International Labour Organisation Conventions 138 and 182 relating to child labour. In Geneva and New York, our UN Missions work to promote and protect the rights of children globally.

Fiona Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the remit is of the desk officer for Women and Children's Human Rights in his Department; and what role that officer has had in his Department's recent work on child rights and street children. [24277]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Desk Officer for Women and Children's Human Rights in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is responsible for developing and driving forward our policy framework on women's and children's rights internationally.

This involves working closely with colleagues in London and in Posts to enable them to develop and deliver policies and initiatives on the rights of women and children overseas. This includes lobbying states to ensure full implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Iran: Prisoners

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the *(a)* charges against and *(b)* condition in detention of Ms Rozita Vseghi in Mashhad, Iran; and if he will make a statement. [23556]

Alistair Burt: We have raised a wide range of human rights issues with the Iranian Government, including the persecution of members of the Baha'i community. We have asked our embassy in Tehran to express concern about Rozita Vseghi, who is reported as being detained on a charge of spreading Baha'i teachings.

Iraq: Christianity

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will have discussions with his Iraqi counterpart on protection for Christians in Iraq by Iraqi security forces *(a)* in their places of worship and *(b)* generally. [22803]

Alistair Burt: In the wake of the attack on the Our Lady of Salvation Church in Baghdad on 31 October, the Iraqi Prime Minister called on the armed forces and the security forces to remain on maximum alert, and to exert maximum efforts to secure mosques, churches and all places of worship.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met with Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari on Wednesday 10 November and raised the issue of Christians in Iraq. Foreign Minister Zebari confirmed that the protection of minorities was the responsibility of the Iraqi Government.

Morocco: Deportation

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assistance his Department has provided to British citizens deported from Morocco to facilitate their return to that country. [23922]

Alistair Burt: We are unable to interfere in the sovereignty of another country's immigration law in order to request that British nationals be permitted to return to Morocco. However our ambassador in Rabat and officials at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London have raised concerns with the Moroccan authorities about a lack of due process, which Morocco has committed to provide under its international obligations. We have received assurances from them that any further cases will be dealt with in a manner consistent with international consular obligations.

I will also use the opportunity of a visit to Morocco later this year to raise this issue with the Moroccan authorities.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British citizens were deported from Morocco in the last 18 months; how many of those contacted his Department for assistance; and how many of those who contacted his Department have since returned to Morocco. [23923]

Alistair Burt: We are aware of 16 British nationals who have been deported from Morocco in the last 18 months, all of whom have been provided with the appropriate consular assistance. There may be other British nationals who have been deported that we are not aware of. We would not be aware of the numbers who have since returned to Morocco as the entry to Morocco is a matter for the Moroccan authorities. However, it is not unusual for countries to refuse re-entry if an individual has been deported.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assistance his Department has provided to British citizens deported from Morocco. [23927]

Alistair Burt: On 6 July I met a group of the British nationals expelled from Morocco to discuss their concerns, and I will raise the matter with my counterparts when I visit Morocco later this year. Officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London have also met a number of those expelled. Our ambassador in Rabat and Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials in London have made representations to the Moroccan authorities. Consular officials from our embassy in Rabat have provided assistance to the group, including providing them with the contact details of English-speaking lawyers and helping them gain access to possessions they were forced to leave behind. We continue to monitor developments in this case closely.

Redundancy

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much funding to meet staff redundancy costs was identified in his Department's settlement letter in respect of the comprehensive spending review. [21529]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is currently working on a revised Strategic Workforce Plan to determine the level of staffing it will need to deliver departmental priorities, while remaining within resources allocated in the spending review settlement. At present it is not possible to predict the outcome of this review. We hope to achieve any necessary reductions by means of natural wastage and voluntary early retirement. If any redundancies do become necessary, the full costs will be met from within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's spending review settlement.

Turkey: EU Enlargement

Mr Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking at EU level to seek to secure progress on Turkey's application for membership of the EU. [23639]

Mr Lidington: Turkey's accession to the EU is a key goal for the British Government, subject to the rigorous application of the accession criteria. We believe that Turkish accession would be to the wider benefit of the UK and EU, contributing to our security and prosperity. We work closely with our EU member state counterparts and with the European Commission in order to encourage and support progress in Turkey's accession process.

We work closely with Turkey, both bilaterally and at the EU level, to support progress in their domestic reform programme to meet the all requirements of the EU acquis. We also encourage Turkey's efforts to support the Cyprus settlement process, and call for Turkey to implement the Additional Ankara Protocol.

Western Sahara: Human Rights

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he plans to take in the UN Security Council to seek to ensure that human rights in Western Sahara are upheld; and if he will make a statement. [24159]

Alistair Burt: The UK fully supports the idea of including human rights monitoring mechanisms in the territory and encourages the parties to take this forward.

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to take steps in the UN Security Council to seek to ensure that international media and observers are allowed access to El Aauin, Western Sahara to monitor the human rights situation in that area. [24160]

Alistair Burt: The UK believes that transparency in the field of human rights is vital to building confidence between the parties. We will continue to work with other members of the Security Council and all parties to the dispute to promote this.

Western Sahara: Politics and Government

Mr Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether representatives from his Department plan to visit El Aauin, Western Sahara to assess the current political situation. [24274]

Alistair Burt: Members of our embassy in Rabat regularly visit Western Sahara; although they have no plans to visit at this time.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had in the UN Security Council on the implementation of a referendum on the right to self-determination in Western Sahara. [24276]

Mr Lidington: The mandate of the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) was discussed and renewed for a further year in April 2010. The UK fully supports the UN process to find a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution, which provides for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara.

Western Sahara: Violence

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications of the recent violence in Western Sahara for the future of negotiations to resolve the conflict. [24272]

Mr Lidington: We are encouraged that the scheduled talks between the parties have been able to continue. We call on all parties to continue to engage in this important process and to work together on confidence-building measures including family visits by air and road.

Mr Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had in the UN Security Council on measures to prevent further deaths and violence in El Aauin, Western Sahara. [24273]

Mr Lidington: We remain in close touch with members of the Security Council about developments in Western Sahara, a number of whom, such as the UK, have expressed concern at the violence.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of deaths resulting from violence in Western Sahara. [24275]

Mr Lidington: The UK is concerned by reports of violence at the camps and in the town of Layounne and we are particularly saddened by reports of deaths. The exact circumstances are unclear but officials in Rabat and London are following the situation closely and remain in contact with the Moroccan authorities.

Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of trends in the political situation in Zimbabwe *(a)* since 2007 and *(b)* since the appointment of Morgan Tsvangirai as prime minister. [24007]

Mr Bellingham: The period from 2007 to 2008 saw a resurgence of hope in the run-up to the elections of March 2008, followed by a descent into uncontrolled violence before the second round of the parliamentary elections. After Morgan Tsvangirai's decision to withdraw in order to spare Zimbabweans further suffering, Southern African Development Community-sponsored negotiations between the political parties resulted in the formation of the Inclusive Government in February 2009.

Since then there has been significant economic progress. Inflation has reduced to single figures, goods are available, key services are restored and tax revenue is increasing. This year Zimbabwe's economy is expected to grow for the first time since 1997, with a forecast (IMF) of around 8%.

Progress on political reform has been slower although there have been some achievements. Earlier this year we were encouraged by the appointment of the Media, Electoral and Human Rights Commissions. Progress by the Commissions has been slow in the face of intransigence from hardliners. However we welcome the issuing of newspaper licences by the Media Commission, an essential element in preparing the conditions for credible elections.

There has been a considerable reduction in the severity and frequency of human rights abuses since the formation of the Inclusive Government. But we remain concerned about ongoing abuses, particularly around the rule of law and the hardliners' continued exploitation of their control of the security apparatus and judiciary for political ends. The recent constitutional reform process has shown that State actors still have a capacity for violence and intimidation.

Persistent intransigence from hardliners, including the recent unilateral appointments made by President Mugabe, led Prime Minister Tsvangirai to declare a 'constitutional crisis' last month. We share Prime Minister Tsvangirai's frustration and support him in his determination to remain in the Government. In the absence of a roadmap to credible and properly monitored elections, the Inclusive Government continues to offer the only credible means of transforming Zimbabwe and of delivering basic services to its people. But to succeed, it needs a clear commitment from all parties to work together to implement the reforms set out in the Global Political Agreement.

We will continue to engage with our international partners, including South Africa, in considering how best to work with reformers in Zimbabwe and the region, to improve prospects of reform and to prepare for credible and properly monitored elections.

CABINET OFFICE

Civil Servants: Per Capita Costs

Robert Halfon: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent estimate has he made of the average cost to the public purse of a day worked by a civil servant. [23278]

Mr Hurd: The average paybill cost (including employer pension and national insurance contributions) per full-time equivalent per working day is estimated to be approximately £150 as at end of June 2010. The Cabinet Office does not hold information on other costs of employing a member of staff such as accommodation, heating and electricity costs.

Civil Service Live Conference

Robert Halfon: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) whether his Department has undertaken a recent value for money assessment of its participation in the Civil Service Live event; [23275]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* Ministerial colleagues, *(b)* senior civil servants and *(c)* others, on the future of the Civil Service Live event; [23281]

(3) what role Civil Service Live plays in his Department's most recent business plan; [23282]

(4) what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of the proposed Civil Service Live event in July 2011; [23283]

(5) what recent assessment he has made of the benefits to the public of the Civil Service Live event in each year since its inception; [23284]

(6) what plans he has for the future of his Department's support for the Civil Service Live event; and what budget he plans to allocate to it in each of the next three years; [23285]

(7) what estimate he has made of the travel and accommodation expenses paid from the public purse in respect of the Civil Service Live event in each year since its inception; [23286]

(8) what speakers there have been at each Civil Service Live event since its inception; and how much was paid in fees and expenses to such speakers in respect of each such event; [23287]

(9) how many external consultancies or contractors his Department has engaged in connection with the Civil Service Live event in each year since its inception; and what the *(a)* average and *(b)* highest daily rate of pay in this period was in each such year; [23334]

(10) how much income his Department has received from *(a)* private advertising and *(b)* other non-Government sources in respect of the Civil Service Live event in each year since its inception; and how much it expects to receive from such sources in respect of the 2011 event; [23335]

(11) how many civil servants in his Department worked *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time in producing the Civil Service Live event in the latest period for which figures are available; [23336]

(12) how much his Department spent on marketing and communications in respect of the Civil Service Live event in each year since its inception; [23337]

(13) what the cost to the public purse of the Civil Service Live event has been in each year since its inception; [23338]

(14) how much his Department has paid *(a)* Dods and *(b)* other third parties to organise and host the Civil Service Live event in each year since its inception; [23339]

(15) what information his Department holds on the number of people who have attended each Civil Service Live event since its inception. [23340]

Mr Hurd: Civil Service Live events are owned and managed by Dods (the publisher of Civil Service World). I have not had any recent discussions with ministerial colleagues or senior civil servants on the future of these events. The Cabinet Office has no plans to allocate any budget to Civil Service Live in each of the next three years and Civil Service Live does not feature in our business plan. The Cabinet Office has never paid Dods, or any other third party, to organise or host the events since their inception and neither has it received any income from private advertising or other non-Government sources in respect of these events. A small number of staff from the Cabinet Office supported particular elements of the events, such as workforce diversity and digital engagement, which were used to share experiences and highlight good practice.

With regard to costs, attendee numbers and benefits of Civil Service Live events, I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 21 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 375W.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr Byrne: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how many civil servants his Department has employed on short-term contracts of each duration since May 2010; [24259]

(2) what rules and procedures have been in place in respect to the awarding of short-term contracts to civil servants employed in his Department since May 2010; [24260]

(3) if he will place in the Library a copy of the advice he has received on the awarding of short-term contracts for staff employed in his Department since his appointment; [24261]

(4) whether the Cabinet Secretary has approved the awarding of each short-term contract in respect of staff employed by his Department since May 2010. [24258]

Mr Hurd: I refer the right hon. Member to the letter from Sir Gus O'Donnell to the hon. Member for Barnsley East (Michael Dugher) dated 10 November 2010. A copy of the letter is available in the House of Commons Library.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent progress he has made in extending the apprenticeship scheme. [22741]

Mr Hayes: We are firmly committed to boosting the supply of apprenticeships, in particular at Level 3 and above, which is why one of this Government's first actions was to announce an additional 50,000 adult places for the 2010-11 financial year. This will take the total starts for apprentices of all ages to well over 300,000 this year. For future years we are increasing annual funding for adult apprenticeships by up to £250 million before the end of the spending review period. Therefore by 2014-15, this Government will have in place sufficient funding for 75,000 more adult apprenticeships places than were provided under the previous Government.

In this current public expenditure climate we must realise that expanding and improving the apprenticeship programme depends in no small measure on our ability to persuade a larger and more diverse range of businesses to employ apprentices. We are therefore reducing bureaucracy and making the system simpler for employers and are considering how we might better support employers through improved funding arrangements. Just this month, we joined forces with business leaders and the National Apprenticeships Service (NAS) to launch a new campaign to urge more employers to take on apprenticeships. Our future plans for apprenticeships will be set out in more detail in our skills strategy which we will publish shortly.

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what mechanism his Department uses for the distribution of funding for adult apprenticeships between the regions. [23707]

Mr Hayes: The Skills Funding Agency (SFA) operates a national system to fund post-19 further education and training, there are no regional allocations. Funding allocations to colleges and providers reflect the pattern of employer demand and funding is moved in year to reflect local need.

Apprentices: Females

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his most recent estimate is of the number of women enrolled on apprenticeships of each *(a)* type and *(b)* salary band in (i) the UK, (ii) the west midlands and (iii) Walsall South constituency. [23572]

Mr Hayes: The following table shows the number of female apprenticeship starts by level for Walsall South constituency, west midlands region and England for 2008/09, the latest year for which full year data are available.

Female apprenticeship starts by level and geography, 2008/09

	Apprenticeship (level 2)	*Advanced apprenticeship (level 3)*	*Total*
Walsall South parliamentary constituency	180	60	240
West midlands region	10,100	5,400	15,500
England	80,300	38,900	119,300

Notes:
1. Figures for west midlands region and England are rounded to the nearest hundred. Figures for Walsall South parliamentary constituency are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures for advanced apprenticeships include a small number of higher level apprenticeships.
3. Figures are based upon the home postcode of the learner and on constituency boundaries which came in to effect in May 2010.
4. The figure for England contains a small number of apprenticeship starts where the postcode of the learner is outside England or where the postcode is not known.

Source:
Individualised Learner Record

Information on the pay of apprentices during their apprenticeship is available in a 2007 survey of apprentices' pay:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/corporate/migratedD/publications/D/DIUS_RR_08_05

The average pay for a female apprentice was £147. Information is not available at sub-national level and is for England only.

Apprentices: Income

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the average additional lifetime earnings of those who complete an apprenticeship; when this figure was most recently calculated; and how many apprenticeships were available at that time. [23711]

Mr Hayes: The most recent evidence suggests that, taking into account the cost of getting the qualification, people completing an apprenticeship at level 3 will, on average, earn around an additional £105,000 over their lifetime, compared to those with a level 2 qualification. Individuals completing an apprenticeship at level 2 will earn around an additional £73,000 over their lifetime, compared to those in possession of level 1 or level 2 qualifications.

This figure was most recently calculated in 2007, based on data up until 2005, and the full report—"A Cost Benefit Analysis of Apprenticeships and Other Vocational Qualifications"—can be accessed at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/RR834.pdf

In the academic year 2006/07 there were 184,000 apprenticeship starts.

Broadband: Rural Areas

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will discuss with Allpay the provision of wireless link broadband to remote rural areas; and if he will make a statement. [22301]

Mr Vaizey: £530 million of funding to support broadband roll-out up to 2015 is available. Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) expects that a mixture of technological solutions including fixed, wireless and satellite will be required to meet broadband goals. BDUK would be happy to meet Allpay to discuss broadband provision. If the company gets in touch officials will arrange a meeting.

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to roll out broadband availability to rural areas following the pilots in the three trial areas; and if he will make a statement. [23250]

Mr Vaizey: Broadband Delivery UK is at present focused on delivering the superfast broadband pilots. It is, however, also progressing with the design of a process for the wider deployment of broadband across the UK, once the pilots have commenced.

Business: Government Assistance

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to attract and retain global businesses within the UK; and if he will make a statement. [23806]

Mr Prisk: Business's decisions to invest and remain in the UK are complex. The Government are committed to promoting growth by tackling the deficit, rebalancing the economy and creating the right conditions to support a private sector-led recovery. This includes:

Clear direction and certainty on deficit reduction.

Creating a tax regime that is the most competitive corporate tax system in the G20.

Creating the Office of Tax Simplification to provide the Government with independent advice on simplifying the UK tax system and improving our international competitiveness.

Getting the regulatory framework right and from 1 September, the groundbreaking new One-in, One-out system began.

Maintaining business investment by ensuring that our legal and institutional frameworks are fair, efficient and transparent and provide the necessary certainty for firms to conduct their business with confidence.

A reduction in the small business profits rate and the waiver for national insurance contributions for new businesses in most areas of the country.

Tackling real and perceived barriers faced by people wanting to start and grow a business including improving access to finance.

A key deliverer of the Government's drive to encourage foreign investment is UK Trade and Investment, the UK's national trade and investment promotion agency. UKTI leads on attracting high-quality, high-value investment to the UK.

Further details can be found in "A Strategy for Sustainable Growth" published in July 2010,

http://interactive.bis.gov.uk/comment/growth/

Other recent action to support these goals includes:

Creating high-quality transport infrastructure—over £10 billion over the spending review to provide new road schemes and to maintain existing roads; fully funding Crossrail and supporting improvements to the London Underground network; and £14 billion for rail improvements.

Investment in areas where public capital can generate returns—rolling out superfast broadband access across the country; a regional growth fund of £1.4 billion to support investment in infrastructure to promote growth; and investing £1 billion with additional significant proceeds from the sale of Government-owned assets to provide incentives for investment in the low-carbon economy through the Green Investment Bank; and

Delivering outcomes which support growth, skills and research—including £250 million extra funding compared to the previous Government for new adult apprenticeships; and maintaining the science budget in cash terms over the spending review.

Copyright Tribunal

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will publish all correspondence between his Department and the *(a)* Copyright Tribunal and *(b)* Tribunals Service since his appointment; and if he will make a statement. [21846]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 4 November 2010]:* There is no correspondence that we can trace between BIS, as a Department of State, and the Copyright Tribunal as an entity in its own right. Over the period in question there has been no correspondence between BIS and the chairman or the members of the tribunal. There is however correspondence between the tribunal secretary, who is an employee of the IPO—an executive agency of BIS—and the chairman and members. Most of this relates to individual cases, but I am putting the remaining correspondence in the Libraries of the House.

Correspondence between the Department and the Tribunal Service is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many members of staff were employed in the ministerial correspondence unit of his Department in the last two years. [24015]

Mr Davey: There are currently 36 people employed in the ministerial correspondence unit at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Depression: Sick Leave

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent estimate he has made of *(a)* the average annual number of working days lost each year because of depression and *(b)* consequent cost to the economy. [20539]

Chris Grayling: I have been asked to reply.

While not having the specific figures for depression the Department for Work and Pensions estimates that around 60 million working days may be lost each year as a result of mental health conditions in general. The cost of this to the economy we estimate to be in the range of £2 billion to £4 billion.

We also support managers to help employees maintain mental health and well-being at work, for example the Health and Safety Executive's Management Standards and the Health Work and Well-being Co-ordinator network. There is also support available to managers who have employees who are in work and struggling or off sick—for example employment support in psychological therapy services and an occupational health advice line for small businesses. DWP also provide advice and funds for workplace adaptations for disabled people through the Access to Work programme.

For people with mental health conditions on benefits, there is support available from all DWP's employment programmes through both mainstream and specialist services. Jobcentre Plus advisers also have access to Disability Employment Advisers and Work Psychologists, and each Jobcentre Plus district has a mental health co-ordinator function, which develops practical links between mental health and employment services and provides intelligence to advisers.

Employee Benefit Trusts

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department provides guidance to businesses on establishing employee share ownership schemes. [24081]

Mr Davey: A range of guidance on employee share ownership schemes is available on:

www.businesslink.gov.uk

the Government's free online business advice and support service.

In addition, the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) provides a range of training services for businesses, including assistance in understanding and developing appropriate pay and reward systems such as employee share ownership schemes.

Financial Inclusion Fund

Ben Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for his Department's support for the Financial Inclusion Fund after 31 March 2011. [23643]

Mr Davey: The Financial Inclusion Fund is funded by HM Treasury. This Department's interest is in relation to the administration and management of the Face to Face debt advice project, funded from the Financial Inclusion Fund.

The Government are actively considering, with industry, the most effective strategy for providing debt advice. At a time of significant fiscal pressure it is obviously important to ensure that future support is properly targeted and achieves value for taxpayers' money. Decisions on the future funding of debt advice will be taken as the implications of the spending review are worked through.

Fireworks

Mr Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) if he will bring forward legislative proposals to increase the maximum penalty which may be imposed on those who misuse fireworks; [23654]

(2) if he will bring forward proposals to introduce minimum pricing for fireworks; [23655]

(3) if he will bring forward proposals to prohibit the sale of fireworks to the public; [23656]

(4) if he will bring forward proposals to increase the maximum penalty which may be imposed for offences related to the sale of fireworks to minors. [23658]

Mr Davey: There are no plans to revise the legislation relevant to the sale and use of fireworks.

Higher Education: Finance

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the future of *(a)* reserves and *(b)* capital projects in higher education institutions funded from the public purse following his proposed changes to funding arrangements for higher education. [23475]

Mr Hayes: Higher education institutions are autonomous institutions and it is for the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) to monitor their financial health and sustainability to protect the public investment in higher education. Since the changes to student finance in 2006, HEIs have benefitted from additional income of £1.3 billion and the financial health of higher education institutions has improved, including levels of liquidity. The public capital investment fund we will have available will be sufficient to meet existing contractual and legal liabilities. We will announce the precise level of funding including teaching grant and capital funding for the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) in its annual grant letter in December.

Higher Education: Wimbledon

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of school leavers in Wimbledon constituency in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2010 who did not subsequently enter higher education. [23183]

Mr Hayes: Figures relating to the proportion of young people resident in Wimbledon parliamentary constituency who did not subsequently enter higher education (HE) are not available. As an alternative, the available information on the number of 15-years-olds from maintained schools in Merton local authority who did not progress to HE by age 19 is shown in the table. The figures will include some young persons who enter higher education at a later age.

Estimates of the number of 15-year-olds in 2001/02, 2002/03 and 2003/04 from maintained schools in Merton local authority area who did not progress to HE[1] by age 19 in 2005/06, 2006/07 and 2007/08

Academic year	*Number not progressing to HE by age 19*
2005/06	1,125
2006/07	1,065
2007/08	1,115

[1] Includes those who progress to higher education courses at English further education colleges.

Notes:

Figures are rounded to the nearest five pupils.

The estimated number of 15 years in maintained schools in Merton local authority area was 1585 in 2001-02,

1585 in 2002-03 and 1600 in 2003-4

Source:

Matched data from the National Pupil Database, the Higher Education Statistics Agency Student Record and the Individualised Learner Record

Innovation

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what locations *(a)* have been identified and *(b)* are being considered as locations for his proposed innovation centres; [23226]

(2) what plans he has to consult *(a)* universities and *(b)* businesses on the location of his proposed new innovation centres. [23243]

Mr Hayes: The network of technology and innovation centres will be established and overseen by the Technology Strategy Board and will comprise existing regional development agency-funded centres which are excellent and a limited number of new centres. The choice of location for the new centres will pay due consideration to the location of critical mass of research expertise, and business capability without which we inhibit the exchange of know-how and tacit knowledge, as well as the development of active collaborations, which are facilitated by co-location.

The Technology Strategy Board will now work with industry, universities, stakeholders, and wider government to identify the priority areas, the scale of investment required and governance structure for the elite network of technology and innovation centres by April 2011.

Insolvency

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assistance is available to employees of companies that have ceased trading but have not registered as insolvent for the purpose of recouping unpaid wages and redundancy moneys. [24098]

Mr Davey: Under the insolvency provisions contained in the Employment Rights Act 1996, the Redundancy Payments Service of the Insolvency Service (an Executive agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills) can make payment of unpaid wages from the National Insurance Fund (within statutory limits) to employees but only if the employer is legally insolvent as defined under the 1996 Act. Essentially, if the employer is a company, that means the company is in liquidation, administration or has entered into a company voluntary arrangement. If the company is not legally insolvent, employees can seek to recover the wages they are owed through the courts and they can ultimately petition the court to have the company wound up (liquidated), which would enable them to make a claim on the National Insurance Fund.

There are separate provisions under the 1996 Act in respect of statutory redundancy payments which enable the Redundancy Payments Service to make payment of redundancy payments to employees if either the employer is legally insolvent or the employee has obtained an award of a redundancy payment from an employment tribunal and the employer has failed to make that payment to the employee. Once a payment is made from the National Insurance Fund, the Redundancy Payments Service will seek to recover that payment from the employer, whenever possible.

There are no plans to extend the statutory scheme of payments beyond its present limits as this would encourage solvent employers to avoid their responsibilities in respect of wages. The Redundancy Payments Service would also not be in a position to seek to recoup payments by means of a claim against the employer's assets, as it can in insolvency proceedings, and such a change could add significantly to public expenditure.

Institute for Fiscal Studies

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department and its predecessors spent on services provided by the Institute for Fiscal Studies in each of the last 10 years. [23401]

Mr Davey: The Department, and its predecessors, have made the following payments to the Institute for Fiscal Studies:

	£
2005/6	6,879
2006/7	32,539
2007/8	23,410
2008/9	38,603
2009/10	44,945
2010/11	103,885

Information for the 2004/5 financial year and earlier can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Local Enterprise Partnerships Advisory Panel: Pay

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what remuneration members of the Local Enterprise Partnerships Advisory Panel will receive. [24061]

Mr Prisk: I think that your question refers to the advisory panel set up for the regional growth fund, as there is no such panel for Local Enterprise Partnerships.

I can confirm that none of the panel members will receive any remuneration.

Motor Vehicles: Qualifications

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will ensure that the awarding body Edexcel places the qualifications for the BTEC First Diploma and BTEC National Award in Vehicle Technology (Motorsport) on to the Qualifications and Curriculum Framework. [24124]

Mr Hayes: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave on 11 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 483W. The two BTEC qualifications in Vehicle Technology for the Motorsports industry from Edexcel are due to be available on the Qualifications and Credit Framework by the end of this year.

Multinational Companies: Accountancy

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with his international counterparts on the introduction of a new international accounting standard on country-by-country reporting of profits made and taxes paid by multinational companies. [24242]

Mr Davey: I have not had any recent discussions with my international counterparts on the introduction of a new international accounting standard on country-by-country reporting of profits made and taxes paid by multinational companies.

Overseas Trade: USA

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to increase trade between the UK and the United States. [23801]

Mr Prisk: The US is the UK's largest single export market for goods and services, worth nearly £67 billion to UK exporters in 2009, or more than 17% of the UK's total exports to the world.

Through UK Trade and Investment (UKTI), we employ 124 staff, in eight major cities across the US, covering the whole of the country.

Since April this year, our teams have helped over 1,420 British companies in the United States, with support including market research, introductions, promotional events and advice and help with market access. Our teams in-country, and around the UK have also held over 80 US focused events for UK firms—primarily small and medium sized companies. During the rest of this financial year we will support another 16 trade missions to the US, in important industry sectors including information and communications technology (ICT) and life sciences.

Additionally, this Department manages the "US Marketing Scholarships Programme", jointly sponsored by the Ellis Goodman Foundation, British Airways and UKTI. This offers British companies the opportunity to attend a one-week marketing course at a Chicago Business School followed by a placement with a US company. To date, this programme has helped over 300 UK companies to develop and refine their marketing strategy for the US market.

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions there have been between Ministers and officials in his Department and governors, trade associations and industry representatives of constituent states in the United States; and if he will make a statement. [23802]

Mr Prisk: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and my noble Friend Lord Brittan have both recently met senior representatives from the US Chamber of Commerce—including the CEO and Senior Vice-President.

My right hon. Friend, the Minister of State for Universities and Science (Mr Willetts) took part in a video link to the UK-US Higher Education Policy Dialogue meeting, which included representatives from the Association of American Universities, the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities and the American Council on Education.

The chief executive of UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) and other senior UKTI officials have recently met representatives from the organisation British American Business, including the CEO, to discuss ways in which his organisation and UKTI can work together to support UK/US bilateral trade. Officials from UKTI have also recently met the Director of Invest in America, and the Governor of Virginia.

The Mayor of Atlanta will be visiting the UK later this month. His programme includes discussions with UK companies and UKTI officials.

Public Expenditure

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has established processes to monitor any effects of proposed reductions in its expenditure. [21638]

Mr Davey: BIS has well established processes for analysing, monitoring and evaluating the impact of its programme. These will continue to be utilised and we will work closely with delivery partners to monitor the effects of the reductions in spending and implementation of policy reforms.

Royal Mail

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with Royal Mail on plans to review supplier payment terms. [23913]

Mr Davey: Royal Mail's procurement activities are a matter for the company. The decision to review its current contracts with suppliers was taken by the company as part of its drive to reduce its costs in the face of falling volumes of letters which have impacted on the company's revenues.

This Department receives regular updates from Royal Mail on its cost reduction activities.

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with Royal Mail on the sale of assets. [23914]

Mr Davey: Generally, decisions on the sale of assets are for Royal Mail provided that they do not impact on the security that backs the debt facilities Government have made available to the company. However, there are also restrictions in the Articles of Association that prevent the sale of significant assets without the Government's consent as Special Shareholder.

This Department receives regular updates on the proposed sale of assets made by Royal Mail.

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with Royal Mail on the sale and leaseback of its property portfolio. [23915]

Mr Davey: The management of Royal Mail's property portfolio is a matter for the company. This Department, however, receives updates about Royal Mail's activities in this area on a regular basis.

There are limits on what the company can do with its property because the majority of it acts as security for the debt facilities that Government have made available to Royal Mail.

Space Technology

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to support the space industry. [23294]

Mr Hayes: This Department funds a range of European Space Agency programmes in space science and exploration, Earth science, telecommunications, navigation and technology. In addition, we support industry in export bids. This work is co-ordinated by the UK Space Agency which will be established as a full Executive agency of BIS from April 2011. The Department is also working closely with the space industry on the implementation of the Innovation Growth Team Strategy.

Speech Therapy: Training

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what information his Department holds on the number of places available on speech therapy courses at each college in *(a)* London, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* Hertfordshire. [23615]

Mr Hayes: The following table shows the number of further education enrolments on speech therapy courses in London, Essex and Hertfordshire in 2008/09, the latest year for which full year data are available.

Further education enrolments on speech therapy courses by geography in 2008/09

	London region	*Essex local authority*	*Hertfordshire local authority*
Speech therapy	190	10	10
Speech workshops	30	—	—

Notes:
1. All figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. '—' Indicates a base value of less than five.
3. Government office region and local authority are based upon the home postcode of the learner.

Source:
Individualised Learner Record

Tourism

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what support his Department provides to businesses who wish to form regional advocacy bodies for the tourist industry. [23357]

John Penrose: I have been asked to reply.

The Government will place a strong emphasis on leadership by local tourism interests, in particular, local tourism businesses. This was set out in the White Paper "Local Growth: realising every place's potential" which was presented to Parliament on 28 October 2010.

Further details of the Government's position will be made available in a forthcoming tourism strategy paper, which we hope to launch in the new year.

Unemployment: Young People

Ian Swales: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many young people were recorded as not in education, employment or training in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* the north-east and *(c)* Redcar constituency in each of the last five years. [23720]

Mr Hayes: Due to differences in the way separate UK countries define and measure the number of people not in education, employment and training we are unable to produce an estimate for the UK as a whole.

The number of young people not in education, employment or training in England is published by Department for Education (DfE) every quarter. The latest information can be found here and provides estimates for people aged[1] 16-24, 18-24 and 19-24 years old.

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000950/NEETQB2_2010.pdf

The supplementary tables providing a regional breakdown of young people who are NEET is available at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000950/index.shtml

The following table provides estimates of the number and proportion of people aged 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training (NEET) in the Redcar and Cleveland local authority in each year from 2004 to 2009.

[1] Age refers to academic age, which is defined as the age of the respondent at the preceding 31 August. Therefore those aged 16 and above will have completed compulsory full-time education.

People aged 16-24 years-old not in education, employment or training (NEET) in Redcar and Cleveland local authority

	Number NEET	*Percentage NEET of all 16-24 year olds in Redcar and Cleveland*	*95% Confidence interval*
2004	2,000	17	+/- 1,000
2005	3,000	18	+/- 1,000
2006	3,000	17	+/- 1,000
2007	3,000	19	+/- 1,000
2008	4,000	28	+/- 1,000
2009	5,000	27	+/- 1,000

This information is from the Annual Population Survey, which covers the period January to December of each year, with 2009 being the most recent estimate available. The Annual Population Survey is the only available source of data with a sample large enough to provide local authority estimates of the number of young people up to the age of 24 who are NEET. However, the sample is not large enough to provide estimates for smaller geographies, such as parliamentary constituencies, or to provide local authority estimates for age ranges narrower than 16 to 24.

It is important to note that these estimates are subject to large sampling variability and should therefore be treated with caution and viewed in conjunction with their Confidence Intervals, which indicate how accurate an estimate is. For example, a Confidence Interval of +/-1,000 means that the true value is between, 1,000 above the estimate and 1,000 below the estimate.

Jake Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many young people were recorded as not in education, employment or training *(a)* nationally, *(b)* in the north-west and *(c)* in Rossendale and Darwen constituency in each of the last 13 years. [24180]

Mr Hayes: The number of young people not in education, employment or training in England is published by Department for Education (DfE) every quarter. The latest information can be found at the following link and provides estimates for people aged[1] 16 to 24, 18 to 24 and 19 to 24-years-old:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000950/NEETQB2_2010.pdf

The supplementary tables providing a regional breakdown of young people NEET are available at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000950/index.shtml

The following table provides estimates of the number and proportion of people aged 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training (NEET) in Blackburn with Darwen local authority in each year from 2000 to 2009.

People aged 16 to 24-years-old not in education, employment or training (NEET) in Blackburn with Darwen local authority

	Number NEET	*Percentage of all 16 to 24-year-olds NEET in Blackburn and Darwen*	*95% confidence interval*
2000	4,000	20	+/-1,000
2001	4,000	20	+/-1,000
2002	3,000	19	+/-1,000
2003	3,000	15	+/-1,000
2004	3,000	21	+/-1,000
2005	4,000	21	+/- 1,000
2006	3,000	19	+/- 1,000
2007	3,000	21	+/- 1,000
2008	2,000	16	+/- 1,000
2009	3,000	19	+/- 1,000

This information is from the Annual Population Survey, which covers the period January to December of each year, with 2009 being the most recent estimate available. The Annual Population Survey is the only available source of data with a sample large enough to provide local authority estimates of the number of young people up to the age of 24 who are NEET. However, the sample is not large enough to provide estimates for smaller geographies, such as parliamentary constituencies, or to provide local authority estimates for age ranges narrower than 16 to 24.

It is important to note that these estimates are subject to large sampling variability and should therefore be treated with caution and viewed in conjunction with their confidence intervals, which indicate how accurate an estimate is. For example, a confidence interval of +/-1,000 means that the true value is between 1,000 above the estimate and 1,000 below the estimate.

Due to incomplete data, estimates for people not in education, employment and training are not available prior to 2000.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Amateur Swimming Association: Finance

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much funding his Department has provided to the Amateur Swimming Association in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [23702]

Hugh Robertson: As the national governing body for swimming, the Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) received the following funding from Sport England between 2008 and 2010.

			£
	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Whole Sport Plan (Lottery)	1,709,998	3,333,472	3,144, 527
Whole Sport Plan (Exchequer)	200,000	1,452,095	1,568,873
Club Links (Exchequer)	356,500	—	—
EIS Facility Funding (Lottery)	100,000	—	—
Step into Sport (Exchequer)	25,000	—	—
Total	2,391,498	4,785,567	4,713,400

This Department also gave the ASA £0.17 million in 2008-09, £5.8 million in 2009-10 and £2.7 million in 2010/11 for the recruitment of a network of county swimming co-ordinators and to provide free swimming lessons as part of the Free Swimming Programme that ran between April 2009 and July 2010.

Broadband: DCMS

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether his Department plans to carry out a comprehensive mapping of Scotland's fibre infrastructure. [24185]

Mr Vaizey: I have been asked to reply in my capacity as a Minister in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

This Department has made no such assessment. The Digital Economy Act 2010, which came into force in June of this year, gives Ofcom a new duty to report to my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) every three years on the UK's communications infrastructure. Ofcom has consulted on the scope of the first report which is due for publication in 2011. In addition, BIS is currently consulting on changes to the EU framework directive (Directive 2002/21/EC), specifically article 12(4) which allows for national authorities, including national regulatory authorities, to request information from companies to provide a detailed picture of the infrastructure in a member state.

Broadband: Milton Keynes

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what support his Department intends to provide to Milton Keynes council to address gaps in broadband provision in Milton Keynes; [23959]

(2) what progress he has made on developing a broadband strategy for Milton Keynes. [23960]

Mr Vaizey: £530 million has been allocated in the spending review to support broadband roll-out throughout the UK up till 2015. No specific plans have been made for Milton Keynes or any other constituency although the Government have also announced the locations of four super-fast broadband pilot projects. A national broadband strategy will be published before the end of the year.

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[1] Age refers to academic age, which is defined as the age of the respondent at the preceding 31 August. Therefore those aged 16 and above will have completed compulsory full-time education.

Crosby Hall: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* officials in his Department have had on public funding for the restoration of Crosby Hall since 11 May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [23796]

John Penrose: No discussions with the Secretary of State, Ministers or officials from this Department have been held on public funding for the restoration of Crosby Hall since 11 May.

National Heritage Memorial Fund

Karl McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what consideration he has given to reviewing the composition of the *(a)* board of trustees of the National Heritage Memorial Fund and *(b)* regional and national grant assessment teams; and whether he has any plans to appoint new trustees and new members of the teams. [23958]

John Penrose: There are three forthcoming appointments to the Board of the National Heritage Memorial and Heritage Lottery Fund. Two of these will be advertised imminently and represent an opportunity to broaden knowledge of the heritage of the regions of England, further enhance expertise in the historic environment, and build on the board's understanding of how diverse communities can be engaged with heritage and culture. In addition, there will be a need for a new Trustee for Scotland when the incumbent stands down in March.

Members of the Heritage Lottery Fund's regional and country committees are appointed by the chair of the National Heritage Memorial Fund. Applications have recently closed for chairs of the committees in the north-east, north-west and Yorkshire and Humber. Further opportunities across the regions of England, and in Northern Ireland and Scotland, will arise in the next 18 months, and will be publicised during 2011.

Newspaper Press

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 22 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 886W, on newspaper press, what constitutes a formal meeting; and whether his Department holds records of other meetings. [23829]

John Penrose: This Department holds no record of other meetings with Rebekah Brooks, James Murdoch or representatives of News International. Any meeting on official departmental business would normally be considered formal.

Public Houses: North West

Mr Nuttall: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many public houses have closed in *(a)* Bury North constituency and *(b)* the north-west since July 2007. [19250]

James Brokenshire I have been asked to reply.

Data on the number of licenses surrendered, lapsed, revoked, forfeited, suspended or withdrawn in the north-west region over the last four years are set out in tables which will be placed in the House Libraries. The data are not available broken down to constituency level.

Sports: Training

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent representations he has received on the participation in commercial training activities of national sports governing bodies funded by his Department. [23701]

Hugh Robertson: The Department has not received any recent representations about national sports governing bodies participating in commercial training activities.

UK Sport: Personnel

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) how many employees of UK Sport will be responsible for the promotion of *(a)* elite and *(b)* grassroots sport following its merger with Sport England; [23417]

(2) what functions of UK Sport and Sport England are to be merged; [23418]

(3) what mechanisms UK Sport will have in place to promote the interests of elite athletes in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland following its merger with Sport England; [23419]

(4) whether UK Sport will have separate budgets for the promotion of *(a)* elite and *(b)* grassroots sport following its merger with Sport England; and if he will make a statement; [23420]

(5) what the organisational structure of UK Sport will be following its merger with Sport England; and what elements of the structure will have responsibility for *(a)* elite and *(b)* grassroots sport; [23421]

(6) what plans he has for the composition of the boards of *(a)* UK Sport and *(b)* Sport England following their merger; [23422]

(7) whether he expects any redundancies to result from the merger between UK Sport and Sport England; [23423]

(8) what arrangements UK Sport plans to make following its merger with Sport England to promote the interests of elite athletes in the Isle of Man who compete as UK athletes in international events. [23445]

Hugh Robertson: The Government intend to merge UK Sport and Sport England into a single non-departmental body. We expect the merger to take effect in April 2013. The new body will incorporate the current functions of both UK Sport and Sport England, although we intend for there to be separate divisions for UK elite sport and English community sport, with distinct funding streams.

The new body will create a more unified, coherent and cost-effective structure for sport in the UK, bringing the bodies together in one location, maximising administrative efficiencies, and working in partnership with the Home Country Sports Councils. Sport England and UK Sport are already working closely together to plan for the merger and to identify administrative efficiencies in the light of the spending review settlement.

The new body will represent the interests of elite athletes across the UK. Athletes from the Isle of Man who compete as UK athletes will continue to be able to access world class performance funding, providing that they meet the required performance criteria.

We are currently finalising the governance arrangements for the merger project with UK Sport and Sport England, before we take final decisions on detailed issues such as the composition of the board or the precise organisational structure of the new body and potential implications for current employees. We are also working closely with our counterparts in the devolved Administrations.

We are intending to hold a Sports Cabinet, involving all of these parties, early in the new year.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Interns

Luciana Berger: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many interns his Office has employed on a *(a)* unpaid, *(b)* expenses only and *(c)* minimum wage or above basis since May 2010. [24188]

The Deputy Prime Minister: There have been no interns employed in the Deputy Prime Minister's Office since May 2010.

Voting Rights: Prisoners

Priti Patel: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer by the Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office on 2 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 772 on prisoners' right to vote, when he expects to announce the steps he plans to take to implement the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights. [23230]

Mr Harper: Ministers are considering how to implement the Hirst (No.2) judgment and will inform the House once a decision has been made. As I indicated to the House, the Government accept, as did the previous Government, that as a result of the judgment of the Strasbourg Court in the Hirst case, there is a need to change the law. This is not a choice; it is a legal obligation.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 16 November 2010

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Departmental Press

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change to which local newspapers his Department had a subscription between October 2008 and May 2010; on what date each such subscription started; and what the cost to the public purse was of such subscriptions. [24425]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change has a subscription for two copies of the *Aberdeen Press and Journal*, for its Aberdeen Office. The subscription started when the Department was created in October 2008. The cost of the subscription until May 2010 was £357.60.

SCOTLAND

Broadband: Scotland

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether his Department has made an assessment of the economic value of carrying out a comprehensive mapping of Scotland's fibre infrastructure. [24184]

Michael Moore: The Digital Economy Act 2010, which came into force in June of this year, gives Ofcom a new duty to report to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) every three years on the UK's communications infrastructure. Ofcom has consulted on the scope of the first report which is due for publication in 2011. In addition, BIS is currently consulting on changes to the EU framework directive (Directive 2002/21/EC), specifically article 12(4) which allows for national authorities, including national regulatory authorities, to request information from companies to provide a detailed picture of the infrastructure in a member state.

Broadcasting: Scotland

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether his Department has undertaken an impact assessment in respect of the economic effects on the Scottish broadcasting sector of the Government's decision not to accept the recommendation by Ofcom that Scottish Television should be classified as a qualified independent producer. [24221]

Michael Moore: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport undertook an impact assessment as part of the public consultation on the potential reclassification of production companies owned by Channel 3 licence holders. The decision not to reclassify Scottish Television as an independent producer for BBC commissions was taken following a consultation undertaken by the previous Administration. The Government's approach will ensure a fair chance for small and independent production companies in Scotland.

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what consultation his Department has with *(a)* Scottish Television, *(b)* Scottish Enterprise, *(c)* trade unions in Scotland and *(d)* the broadcasting industry in Scotland prior to the Government's decision not to accept the recommendation by Ofcom that Scottish Television should be classified as a qualified independent producer. [24222]

Michael Moore: The previous Administration held a public consultation from 4 November 2009 to 2 February 2010 on the potential reclassification of production companies owned by Channel 3 licence holders. Responses were received from the following organisations:

Bees Nees
Caledonia TV
Channel 4
Comedy Unit
Eyeline Media
Finestripe Productions
ITV
IWC Media
La Belle Allee Productions Ltd
Lion Television
Mac TV
Mallinson Sadler Productions
Matchlight Limited
Michael Darlow
Mike Bolland
Ofcom
PACT
Scottish Screen
Scottish Government
Skyline Productions Ltd
STV
Tattiemoon
Tern TV
True TV and Film Ltd
Turmeric Media
UKTV
Ulan Productions
UTV
Visible Ink Television.

Citizens Advice Scotland

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he last met representatives of Citizens Advice Scotland; and what matters were discussed at that meeting. [24138]

Michael Moore: I last met representatives from Citizens Advice Scotland on 5 July. Among the topics discussed were forthcoming business and funding issues for the organisation.

Glasgow School of Art

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he *(a)* last visited and *(b)* next plans to visit (i) the Glasgow School of Art and (ii) the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. [24134]

Michael Moore: In September I had a meeting with Universities Scotland, the representative body for Scotland's 20 higher education institutions I have not yet had the opportunity to visit the Glasgow School of Art or the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama.

Kenneth Calman

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he last met Sir Kenneth Calman; and what was discussed at that meeting. [24142]

Michael Moore: I spoke with Sir Kenneth Calman on 9 June 2010. We discussed the final report of the Commission on Scottish Devolution and the Government's coalition commitment to implement the Commission's recommendations. I will be meeting with Sir Kenneth again in the near future.

Political Adviser

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what criteria he set for candidates for appointment as his political adviser; what consideration he gave to advertising this post; and what the *(a)* experience, *(b)* salary and *(c)* length of contract of such appointments are. [24144]

Michael Moore: The only appointment I have made as Secretary of State for Scotland has been to appoint a special adviser; no political adviser has been appointed. The appointment of a special adviser is a personal appointment, and, therefore, such posts are not generally advertised. Special advisers are appointed, and remunerated, in accordance with guidance issued by the Cabinet Office.

Political Appointments

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many *(a)* political appointments and *(b)* other personal appointments he has made since his appointment; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of such appointments. [24143]

Michael Moore: The only appointment I have made since my own appointment as Secretary of State for Scotland has been to appoint a special adviser. Special advisers are appointed, and remunerated, in accordance with guidance issued by the Cabinet Office.

Public Expenditure: Scotland

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the likely effect on the West Lothian local authority area of the implementation of proposals in the comprehensive spending review. [23903]

Michael Moore: I have had many discussions with ministerial colleagues on a range of issues, including the effects of the spending review in Scotland. The spending review sets out how the Government will carry out Britain's unavoidable plan to reduce the largest deficit in peacetime history. Alongside growth, the Government have prioritised fairness, including reforming the welfare system to put it on a sustainable long-term footing, while providing sustained routes out of poverty for the poorest. Scotland and its regions will stand to benefit from these priorities.

Scotland Bill

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when his Department expects to publish the Scotland Bill. [24141]

Michael Moore: The Queen's Speech included a commitment to bring forward legislation in this first Session of Parliament to implement the recommendations of the Commission on Scottish Devolution. The Scotland Bill will be published in due course.

Universities: Visits

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he *(a)* last visited and *(b)* next plans to visit (i) Edinburgh Napier university, (ii) Queen Margaret university, (iii) the University of Abertay, (iv) Glasgow Caledonian university, (v) the university of the West of Scotland, (vi) Robert Gordon university, (vii) the university of Stirling, (viii) the University of Dundee, (ix) Heriot-Watt university, (x) the university of Strathclyde, (xi) the university of Aberdeen, (xii) the university of Glasgow, (xiii) the university of St Andrews, (xiv) Edinburgh university and (xv) Kilmarnock college. [24135]

Michael Moore: In recent weeks, I have visited the university of Abertay and the university of Glasgow, and I plan to visit the university of Edinburgh early in 2011. I hope to visit as many of Scotland's universities and colleges as possible in the coming months. In September I met Universities Scotland, the representative body for higher education institutions in Scotland, and I plan to meet representatives from Scotland's colleges soon.

Visits Abroad: Scotland

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he *(a)* last visited and *(b)* next plans to visit Malawi. [24133]

Michael Moore: I have *(a)* not visited Malawi and *(b)* have no current plans to visit Malawi.

West Lothian Question

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Deputy Prime Minister on the Commission to consider the West Lothian question; and if he will make a statement. [24131]

Michael Moore: I have continuing discussions on a range of matters with the Deputy Prime Minister. The Government are committed to establishing a commission to consider the West Lothian question as set out in the 'programme for government' and, as the Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office, my hon. Friend the Member for Forest of Dean (Mr Harper) stated on 26 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 252W:

> "we aim to announce our plans for a commission by the end of the year."

I will discuss with ministerial colleagues as plans are developed.

WALES

Public Sector: Employment

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many job losses she expects there to be in the public sector in each constituency in Wales in the next five years. [24228]

Mr David Jones: The Office for Budget Responsibility has made employment predictions for the UK based on macro-economic data and no figures are available at sub-national level.

The Secretary of State and I remain committed to preserving public sector jobs in Wales wherever possible while ensuring that the economy is rebalanced with a strong and vibrant private sector.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Developing Countries: Maternity Services

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the evidential basis was for his statement at the consultation meeting on his Department's business plan on reproductive, maternal and newborn health that *(a)* 70,000 women a year die from unsafe abortions and *(b)* where such abortions do not result in death, they can cause lifelong suffering; and if he will make a statement. [23614]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The evidential basis for the Secretary of State's statement at the consultation meeting is the latest updated statistics published by the World Health Organisation (WHO) on unsafe abortion (WHO and HRP 2010. "Unsafe Abortion in 2008: Global and Regional Levels and Trends"). This is based in part on data from the Guttmacher Institute (Singh S et al. "Abortion Worldwide: A decade of uneven progress" published in 2009). Globally in 2008, an estimated 22 million unsafe abortions took place. Nearly all of these were in developing countries, and resulted in about 70,000 deaths of women and girls.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the relationship between the level of access to abortion and the number of deaths of (i) mothers in pregnancy or birth and (ii) newborn children; what methodology was used in such research; and if he will make a statement. [23622]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not directly commissioned research on the relationship between the level of access to safe, legal abortion and the number of deaths of (i) mothers and (ii) newborn children. We use data compiled by a range of organisations, including the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Guttmacher Institute.

However, DFID is commissioning research on meeting unmet need for family planning. The successful consortium will be announced in early 2011. The final details of the work programme will be developed during the first year of the programme.

Independent Commission for Aid Impact: Expenditure

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what role the Chief Commissioner of the Independent Commission for Aid Impact will play in *(a)* assessing the effectiveness of spending in meeting project objectives and *(b)* selection of projects. [24607]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Chief Commissioner will lead the Independent Commission for Aid Impact (ICAI) in assessing the impact and effectiveness of UK aid spending. This will include assessments of the effectiveness of spending in meeting project objectives. The ICAI will determine which projects and programmes will be evaluated, reviewed and investigated and will consult the International Development Committee in due course.

Strategic Defence and Security Review

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which countries were assessed as being conflict-affected and fragile for the purpose of the information provided in the strategic defence and security review. [24608]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Government's assessment of conflict affected and fragile countries used in the development of the strategic defence and security review draws from the all-source Countries at Risk of Instability report produced by the Cabinet Office and Departments. It is not HMG policy to make the details of the Countries at Risk of Instability report public.

Sudan: Human Rights

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the African Union on the humanitarian situation in southern Sudan. [23244]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I am in regular contact with the Chairman of the African Union (AU) Commission, Jean Ping, including on the AU's role in Sudan. I was unable to meet with the AU's chief mediator on Sudan, President Mbeki, on my recent visit, since he was tied up with the talks on the referenda and completion of the comprehensive peace agreement.

However, I spoke to a range of people involved in the AU high level process, including Vice President Taha and President Kiir, UNSG Menkerios and the US ambassador. I pressed the importance of a peaceful and credible process, to minimise the risk of conflict and humanitarian problems, as well as contingency planning for any humanitarian problems. I also spoke to the Joint AU/UN Special Representative in Darfur, Ibrahim Gambari, about links between conflict and humanitarian issues in Darfur and Southern Sudan.

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the UN on the humanitarian situation in southern Sudan. [23245]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: During my recent visit to Sudan, I had extensive discussions on this issue with UN representatives, including Baroness Amos, UN Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Co-ordinator; Alan Le Roy, UN Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations; Haile Menkerios, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Sudan; Georg Charpentier the Humanitarian Co-ordinator in Sudan; and with the heads of in-country teams for the Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the World Food Programme (WFP).

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the EU on the humanitarian situation in southern Sudan. [23246]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: During my recent visit to Sudan, I had discussions on the humanitarian situation in Sudan with the EU ambassador and senior representatives of the EU delegation in Sudan. We discussed work to maximise the chances of a peaceful and credible referendum, on the possible secession of Southern Sudan, in January 2011. But we also discussed preparations for any outbreaks of violence and humanitarian need. The Department for International Development (DFID) and the humanitarian aid arm of the European Commission (ECHO) work closely together in Sudan on humanitarian issues across the country.

Sudan: International Assistance

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's long-term strategy is to support Southern Sudan's progress towards the millennium development goals. [23235]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) is undertaking a review of all the UK's bilateral aid programmes including in Sudan, and its southern region. Given uncertainty about the outcome of the referendum in January, and the need to retain the ability to respond to any humanitarian crisis that might occur in the early part of 2011, we aim to have a long-term strategy in place by April 2011.

Zimbabwe: Agriculture

Neil Parish: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent representations his Department has made to the Government of Zimbabwe on attacks on farmers and agricultural workers. [23906]

Mr Bellingham: I have been asked to reply.

The farm invasions by Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front (ZANU (PF)) supporters contravene the Southern African Development Community (SADC) ruling of November 2008 as well as the terms of the Global Political Agreement (GPA). Farm workers suffer equally with farm owners, often losing their accommodation as well as their livelihood.

Our embassy in Harare monitors the situation closely and continues to make clear our concerns to the Government of Zimbabwe. The consul met with British farmers in July to further understand their concerns and see what assistance we might be able to offer. Our ambassador has raised the issue directly with the Minister for Justice and Legal Affairs. Violent invasions demonstrate a lack of respect for the rule of law. We continue to urge the police and judicial authorities in Zimbabwe to take action against them.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

British Nationals Abroad: Prisoners

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK nationals are in prison in *(a)* Jamaica, *(b)* Nigeria, *(c)* the Irish Republic, *(d)* Poland, *(e)* Vietnam, *(f)* Pakistan, *(g)* Somalia, *(h)* Romania, *(i)* China, *(j)* Lithuania, *(k)* another EU Member State and *(l)* another foreign country. [23314]

Mr Jeremy Browne: On 30 September 2010, there were *(a)* 39 British nationals in prison in Jamaica, *(b)* two in Nigeria, *(c)* 101 in the Irish Republic, *(d)* 0 in Poland, *(e)* two in Vietnam, *(f)* 15 in Pakistan, *(g)* 0 in Somalia, *(h)* four in Romania, *(i)* 22 in China *(j)* one in Lithuania, *(k)* 750 in other EU member states, and *(l)* 1,657 in other foreign countries.

Iran: Human Rights

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations at UN level to establish a monitoring mechanism to report on human rights in Iran to the *(a)* General Assembly and *(b)* Human Rights Council. [24541]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We remain deeply concerned by the appalling human rights situation in Iran, which has deteriorated markedly since the disputed June 2009 elections. The UK has worked closely with the EU and with international partners to raise concerns and encourage Iran to fulfil its domestic and international obligations including through tough resolutions at the UN General Assembly. We are keen that the UN should respond to and monitor all serious human rights situations and are in regular dialogue with all UN members to encourage support for this, both in the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council.

Israel: Borders

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the number of roadblocks in the west bank which have been removed by the Government of Israel; and if he will make a statement. [21938]

Alistair Burt: According to the UN's most recent annual report (published in June 2010) on "West Bank Movement and Access" the number of roadblocks in the west bank was 505. This was in comparison to 626 the previous year.

While we welcome the improvements around the west bank, access into and within the west bank remains seriously restricted, and further easing is essential to help the Palestinian economy to grow.

Japan: Whales

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Japanese counterpart on whaling; and if he will make a statement. [24065]

Mr Jeremy Browne: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs raised whaling during his visit to Japan in July and I raised the issue during my visit to Japan in September. The Japanese Government are in no doubt of the strength of feeling in this country about this issue, and that the UK considers Japan's lethal whaling for "scientific" research wholly unnecessary.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to achieve a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. [24014]

Alistair Burt *[holding answer 15 November 2010]*: This conflict matters to British national security: we will continue to take every opportunity to promote peace, working with all parties, the US and our EU and UN partners.

Our goal is a secure and universally recognised Israel living alongside a sovereign, viable and contiguous Palestinian state, based on the borders of 1967, with Jerusalem the future capital of both states, and a fair settlement for refugees.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs discussed these issues during his recent visit to the region and underlined the need for a renewal of Israel's moratorium on settlement construction. He is also in regular contact with Secretary Clinton and Senator Mitchell on progress. In addition we will continue our work supporting those building the institutions of a future Palestinian state, and continue to work with partners to secure greater change on the ground in Gaza.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Simon Danczuk: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the US Secretary of State, *(b)* the French Foreign Minister, *(c)* the Egyptian Foreign Minister, *(d)* the Jordanian Foreign Minister and *(e)* the Quartet's middle east peace envoy on the middle east peace process. [23035]

Alistair Burt: We are in regular contact with the US and the other key partners cited on the middle east peace process (MEPP) at both ministerial and official level.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs is holding further discussions with Secretary Clinton this week. He also discussed MEPP with former French Foreign Minister Kouchner on 14 October, with Jordanian Foreign Minister Judeh on 23 October and with right hon. Tony Blair on 30 October.

Philippines: Crimes of Violence

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of assaults on nurses in the Philippines; whether he has had recent discussions with the Government of the Philippines on that matter; and if he will make a statement. [23623]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We have received only one recent report of an attack on a nurse in the Philippines: the case of the rape of a nurse on 25 September in South Upi town in Maguindanao in the southern Philippines. We have not raised the specific issue of attacks on nurses with the Philippines authorities.

Sudan: Referendums

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of Sudan on eligibility to vote in the referendum planned for January 2011. [24507]

Mr Bellingham: The UK has consistently underlined to the Governments of Sudan and Southern Sudan, and the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission, the need to make urgent progress towards the Southern Sudan referendum. This has included the need for clear and fair eligibility criteria with accessible language which can be made public. We welcome the start of registration on 15 November.

Turkey: British Council

Mr Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will ensure that the level of funding allocated by the British Council to projects in Turkey is maintained. [23641]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The British Council works independently of Her Majesty's Government. It is reviewing the implications of the spending review settlement and has not yet reached a decision on what impact the reduction in grant in aid will have on individual operations.

The British Council is committed to maintaining its global network and Turkey will remain a priority country within that network.

PRIME MINISTER

Chequers

Mr Watson: To ask the Prime Minister (1) on how many occasions he has met *(a)* the Chairman of Associated Newspapers, *(b)* the Chairman of Mirror Group Newspapers, *(c)* the Chairman of Express Newspapers and *(d)* the Director General of the BBC at Chequers since 12 May 2010; [23752]

(2) how much time he spent with Mr James Murdoch during their meeting at Chequers during the weekend of 6 and 7 November 2010; and which *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants were present; [23753]

(3) what issues he discussed with Mr James Murdoch during the latter's visit to Chequers during the weekend of 6 and 7 November 2010. [23754]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the list of official meetings by Ministers with external organisations which is published on a quarterly basis, in accordance with the ministerial code, and to the list of guests who have received official hospitality at Chequers which is published on an annual basis. Information for 2010-2011 will be published in the usual way at the end of the financial year.

Departmental Internet

Luciana Berger: To ask the Prime Minister by (1) what mechanisms he is undertaking his review of the system for e-petitions to No. 10 Downing street; [24078]

(2) what representations he has received from *(a)* individual members of the public and *(b)* organisations on his review of the system for e-petitions to No. 10 Downing street; [24079]

(3) whether he plans to take steps to encourage members of the public and organisations to participate in his review of the system for e-petitions to No. 10 Downing street. [24080]

The Prime Minister: The future of e-petitions is being reviewed by Martha Lane Fox as part of her review of all Government digital communications and engagement. The conclusions of her review will be announced shortly.

Members: Allowances

Bob Russell: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to his answer of 26 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 495W, on Members: allowances, what steps he has taken to press for improvements in the service provided by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority; and if he will make a statement. [24517]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 14 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 946.

JUSTICE

Coroner Service: Departmental Co-ordination

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) on what occasions he has met *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in the Department for Communities and Local Government to discuss the coroner service since his appointment; [24283]

(2) whether he has had discussions with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the likely effects on service provision by the coroner service of the outcomes of the comprehensive spending review. [24284]

Mr Djanogly: The Secretary of State for Justice has not met with the Department for Communities and Local Government to discuss the coroner service since his appointment.

However, the Secretary of State has corresponded with the Communities Secretary on the likely effects of the outcomes of the spending review 2010 on the reform of the coroner service, and separately on the funding of certain inquests.

Data Protection

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department has taken to *(a)* promote and *(b)* enforce the Information Commissioner's code of conduct in relation to data protection in the last 24 months. [23814]

Mr Djanogly: I understand the question refers to the personal information online code of practice issued by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) in July 2010.

Discussions took place between the MoJ and the ICO about the code of practice during the ICO's public consultation, and the Government support the code's aims. However the ICO is independent of Government in the way it discharges its statutory responsibilities in respect of the Data Protection Act, Freedom of Information Act, Environmental Information Regulations and Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations and so the promotion and enforcement of the code are matters for the ICO.

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Information Commissioner's code of conduct in relation to data protection. [23815]

Mr Djanogly: I understand the question refers to the personal information online code of practice issued by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) in July 2010.

Discussions took place between the MoJ and the ICO about the code of practice during the ICO's public consultation, and the Government support the code's aims. However, the ICO is independent of Government in the way it discharges its statutory responsibilities in respect of the Data Protection Act, Freedom of Information Act, Environmental Information Regulations and Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations. It would therefore not be appropriate for the Government to assess the effectiveness of this code of practice.

Google

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make an assessment of the Information Commissioner's co-ordination with his international counterparts on Google's harvesting of data as part of its Street View project; and if he will make a statement. [23813]

Mr Djanogly: The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) discharges its statutory responsibilities in respect of the Data Protection Act, Freedom of Information Act, Environmental Information Regulations and Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations independently of Government. It would not be appropriate for the Government to comment on the ICO's co-ordination with its international counterparts in individual cases.

Homicide: Death Certificates

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) for what reasons *(a)* an inquest into a murder and *(b)* the issue of a death certificate does not take place until after the completion of criminal proceedings; [24126]

(2) if he will review the effects on the family of a murdered person of the *(a)* holding of inquests and *(b)* issue of death certificates taking place only after the conclusion of any criminal proceedings. [24127]

Mr Djanogly: Section 16 of the Coroners Act 1988 provides that the coroner shall adjourn an inquest, in the absence of any reason to the contrary, if a criminal charge has been brought in connection with the death. Section 16 also provides that the coroner should only resume an inquest after the completion of criminal proceedings if there is sufficient cause. This is because a criminal trial will often address the same issues as an inquest, namely who the deceased was and how, when and where he or she came by their death. Bereaved families are therefore spared the distress of attending two separate judicial proceedings.

Section 16 states further that where a coroner has adjourned an inquest, he or she shall send a certificate to the registrar of deaths. This certificate should state, so far as has been ascertained, the particulars required for registration of the death under the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953. Therefore criminal proceedings should not delay the issuing of the death certificate for registration purposes.

Legal Services Commission: Procurement

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance was *(a)* sought by the Legal Services Commission (LSC) from the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) and *(b)* provided by the OGC to the LSC in respect of the LSC's tendering activities in 2010. [24318]

Mr Djanogly: Decisions made under the tender process for the award of legal aid contracts are a matter for the LSC, which is responsible for administering the legal aid scheme.

I understand that in formulating its plans, specifications and criteria during 2008-09 for the 2010 tenders, the LSC did not seek formal guidance from OGC. Nevertheless, the tender process was designed using the guidance available from OGC and at each stage of the process detailed advice was sought from specialist lawyers and counsel regarding the nature of the service to be procured and any regulations pertaining to them to ensure that the process, criteria and supporting documentation were all compliant with relevant UK and EU procurement legislation.

The e-tendering system used by the LSC in the tenders was itself procured from an OGC framework, and was judged to be compliant in its operations with OGC and legislative requirements.

Finally, the staff responsible for the exercise have had extensive experience of commissioning services, including the Executive Director for Commissioning, who was Chief Executive of OGC buying solutions before joining the LSC.

Magistrates Courts

Mr Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward proposals to increase the number of cases tried before the magistrates courts and to reduce the number of minor offences heard by the Crown courts. [24084]

Mr Blunt: It is in the interests of efficiency that cases should be dealt with in magistrates courts unless the higher sentencing powers of the Crown court are required, and the Government are considering how best to achieve that result. Much time and effort is wasted in the many cases that reach the Crown court and subsequently end in a plea of guilty; this is a particular cause for concern, and we would like to encourage defendants in these cases to plead guilty at the magistrates court stage. Equally, the Government have made it clear that they will protect defendants' rights to jury trial.

Magistrates Courts: Closures

Mr Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effects of the closures of magistrates courts on the number of minor offences that can be heard in those courts. [24085]

Mr Djanogly: Closures of magistrates courts are not expected to affect the number of minor offences that can be heard in those courts.

Utilisation rates, the number of hours the time a courtroom is used, against the hours that a courtroom is available for use, averaged 64% across the magistrates courts in 2009-10. If all the proposed closures went ahead and workload transferred to surrounding courts, it is estimated that it would result in a national utilisation rate in the magistrates courts of around 80%.

This essentially should mean that a similar amount and type of work as is heard currently will be heard at a fewer number of courts, not that the number of minor offences that can be heard will rise or fall.

Non-molestation Orders

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 20 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 235W, on non-molestation orders, when he expects his Department's programme of work accurately to record convictions of those who breach their injunctions to begin. [24537]

Mr Blunt: Pursuant to the answer of 20 July 2010, work undertaken by the Ministry of Justice resolved a previous recording issue of offences resulting from a breach of a previously imposed court order. This enabled the inclusion of these data for the first time in the National Statistics publication "Criminal Statistics, England and Wales 2009" on 21 October 2010.

The number of defendants found guilty of breaching a non-molestation order at all courts in England and Wales 2009 was 2,277.

Sentencing

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 4 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 888-90W, on sentencing, of what offences categories those who did not receive an immediate custodial sentence with *(a)* 16 to 25, *(b)* 26 to 50, *(c)* 51 to 75, *(d)* 76 to 100 and *(e)* 101 or more previous convictions or cautions had been convicted. [23825]

Mr Blunt: Tables 1 to 5 show figures for sentences given for indictable offences to offenders with 16 or more previous convictions or cautions, who did not receive an immediate custodial sentence, by category of offence. These figures are derived from table 6.2 of "Sentencing Statistics: England and Wales 2009" which was published on 21 October 2010.

Table 1: Number of offenders with 16 to 25 previous convictions or cautions who did not receive an immediate custodial sentence for an indictable offence by offence category, 2007-09

England and Wales

Number of offenders

	2007	*2008*	*2009*
Violence against the person	2,193	2,270	2,471
Sexual offences	62	85	63
Burglary	1,701	1,689	1,557
Robbery	52	74	72
Theft and handling stolen goods	12,089	13,710	14,042
Fraud and forgery	675	681	719
Criminal damage	699	615	594
Drug offences	3,962	4,751	5,260
Indictable motoring offences	125	117	120
Other indictable offences	3,729	3,512	3,207
Total	25,287	27,504	28,105

Table 2: Number of offenders with 26 to 50 previous convictions or cautions who did not receive an immediate custodial sentence for an indictable offence by offence category, 2007-09

England and Wales

Number of offenders

	2007	*2008*	*2009*
Violence against the person	1,196	1,241	1,363
Sexual offences	30	26	27
Burglary	1,028	1,153	1,116
Robbery	16	30	16
Theft and handling stolen goods	9,641	11,659	12,976
Fraud and forgery	323	355	356
Criminal damage	274	283	293
Drug offences	1,887	2,402	2,833
Indictable motoring offences	47	47	33
Other indictable offences	1,925	1,984	1,900
Total	16,367	19,180	20,913

Table 3: Number of offenders with 51 to 75 previous convictions or cautions who did not receive an immediate custodial sentence for an indictable offence by offence category, 2007-09

England and Wales

Number of offenders

	2007	*2008*	*2009*
Violence against the person	151	186	251
Sexual offences	3	4	3
Burglary	56	61	72
Robbery	—	1	—
Theft and handling stolen goods	1,095	1,455	1,903
Fraud and forgery	26	37	31
Criminal damage	22	28	22
Drug offences	90	131	199
Indictable motoring offences	1	3	1
Other indictable offences	161	185	178
Total	1,605	2,091	2,660

Table 4: Number of offenders with 76 to 100 previous convictions or cautions who did not receive an immediate custodial sentence for an indictable offence by offence category, 2007-09

England and Wales

Number of offenders

	2007	*2008*	*2009*
Violence against the person	76	81	94
Sexual offences	1	—	—
Burglary	2	11	12
Robbery	—	—	—
Theft and handling stolen goods	200	273	280
Fraud and forgery	2	7	10
Criminal damage	2	9	1
Drug offences	5	20	19
Indictable motoring offences	—	—	—
Other indictable offences	46	44	39
Total	334	445	455

Table 5: Number of offenders with 101 or more previous convictions or cautions who did not receive an immediate custodial sentence for an indictable offence by offence category, 2007-09

England and Wales

Number of offenders

	2007	*2008*	*2009*
Violence against the person	51	85	93
Sexual offences	—	1	1
Burglary	—	5	1
Robbery	—	—	—
Theft and handling stolen goods	139	203	241
Fraud and forgery	5	4	2
Criminal damage	4	1	—
Drug offences	5	6	9
Indictable motoring offences	—	—	—
Other indictable offences	39	35	38
Total	243	340	385

The figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007: Debt Collection

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 21 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 880W, on the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007: debt collection, when he expects the public consultation on protection against aggressive bailiffs to commence. [24013]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice Business Plan 2011-15, published on 8 November 2010, states we will develop options for public consultation on protection against aggressive bailiffs and to encourage more flexibility in bailiff collections by the end of December 2010.

I expect the public consultation on protection against aggressive bailiffs to commence once we have fully developed and confirmed the options.

Young Offenders Institutions: Legal Opinion

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of young offender institutions employ a legal services officer. [24557]

Mr Blunt: As of 15 October 2010, of the 56 establishments that hold young offenders and/or young people under 18 years of age, 40 had a legal services officer (or officers), as defined by Prison Service Order 2605 'The Role of the Legal Services (Previously Legal Aid) Officer' and 16 did not. However, of the 16 who did not, six establishments had other staff members able to assist with legal issues when required and in two others appointments were pending.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

BBC Wales: Television

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the BBC Trust on the launch of BBC One Wales in high definition. [24514]

Mr Vaizey: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, has had no discussions with the BBC Trust on the launch of BBC One Wales in high definition. This is essentially an operational issue for which the BBC is responsible.

BBC: Expenditure

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the reduction in expenditure planned by the BBC over the next four years on its ability to meet its public service obligations; and what mechanisms are in place to ensure that the services consequent on those obligations are maintained. [24712]

Mr Vaizey: The Government have made no assessment. The BBC Trust is responsible for ensuring the BBC meets its public service obligations under the charter and agreement.

Cultural Heritage: Nuclear Power Stations

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether his Department has made an assessment of the *(a)* heritage value of England's built nuclear environment and *(b)* merits of the listing of such sites. [24073]

John Penrose: Neither this Department nor its expert advisers, English Heritage, has completed any such overall assessment. Preliminary research work has been undertaken, however, and shared with the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) in order to inform their management of these sensitive sites. A feasibility report on Calder Hall, informed by English Heritage's work, is available on the NDA's website. Various components at Calder Hall were considered for listing in 2006, but not recommended for designation. While the Secretary of State has no plans at present to consider such sites for listing, discussions are under way between the heritage bodies of England, Scotland and Wales to consider a shared approach to this challenging aspect of Britain's technological achievement.

Departmental Lobbying

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent from the public purse on influencing public policy through *(a)* employing external (i) public affairs companies, (ii) strategic consultancies and (iii) corporate communications firms, *(b)* external marketing and *(c)* other activities in each of the last 10 years. [23757]

John Penrose: The Department does not hold this information.

Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of our agency and each non-departmental public body to respond to the hon. Member for Harlow directly.

A copy of the responses will be placed in the Library of both Houses.

Digital Broadcasting: Hearing Impairment

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent representations he has received on subtitling for the deaf on digital channels; and if he will make a statement. [23879]

Mr Vaizey: On 11 June 2010, Ofcom published a statement following a review of television access services (subtitling, audio description and signing) in the UK. On 14 July 2010, the Government responded to Ofcom's review. Since responding to Ofcom's review, the Secretary of State has received one letter from a member of the public and two letters from my hon. Friend the Member for Witham (Priti Patel), on behalf of a constituent, on subtitling for the deaf on digital channels.

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) whether his Department *(a)* is taking and *(b)* plans to take steps to increase the quality of subtitling for the deaf on digital television channels; [23880]

(2) whether his Department is taking steps to increase the availability of subtitling for the deaf on digital television channels; [23949]

(3) whether his Department plans to ensure that subtitling for the deaf is available on all digital channels in the UK; and if he will make a statement; [23950]

(4) what his most recent assessment is of progress of ITV and Channel 4 towards meeting the requirement to subtitle 90% of programming by the end of 2010. [23951]

Mr Vaizey: Broadcasters already have to meet demanding targets for subtitling. The Communications Act 2003 sets minimum targets for the subtitling of programmes by licensees. For the majority of broadcasters the minimum target for subtitling is 80% to be achieved within a 10-year period, with more demanding targets set for some of the public service broadcasting services. In 2011, 70 separate channels will be required to provide subtitling; accounting for just over 90% of UK audience share in 2009. In addition, any timeshifted or simulcast HD versions of these channels are also obliged to provide subtitling.

In determining which channels are required to provide subtitling, Ofcom considers audience share (channels achieving an average audience share of all UK households over a 12-month period of 0.05% or less are excluded from the requirements) and affordability.

On August 2010 Ofcom published its quarterly report on the provision of access services (subtitling, signing and audio description) by broadcasters for the second quarter of 2010. Ofcom's report shows that the BBC subtitled 99.8% of its programmes, and ITV and Channel 4 both exceeded their subtitling targets of 90%. Indeed, many other broadcasters also exceeded their targets, often substantially.

If a broadcaster fails to meet its obligations over the course of a year, Ofcom requires the deficit to be made up during the following year.

The full report can be found at:

http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/market-data-research/market-data/tv-sector-data/tv-access-services-reports/q110/

Ofcom has provided guidance on quality of subtitling in annex 2 of the Code on Television Access Services:

http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/binaries/broadcast/other-codes/ctas.pdf

It is for broadcasters to take this into account when producing subtitling.

Ofcom also requires television service providers to promote awareness of the availability of their television access services, including subtitling, to potential users of the services by making available accurate and timely information to electronic programme guide (EPG) operators listing their services, and by providing similar information on their website.

Film: Children

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) how many films released on DVD received a classification from the British Board of Film Classification in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009; [24447]

(2) how many DVDs that were exempt from classification were released in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009. [24448]

Mr Vaizey: The Department does not hold the information requested.

The British Board of Film Classification (BBFC) published the figures for all video works released on DVD, including films which received a classification by them in the years 2007, 2008 and 2009 on their website. These figures are included in the table, for reference:

Video works classified by BBFC

	Number
2007	12,229
2008	11,439
2009	6,946

A breakdown of data showing only the number of films released on DVD which received classification by the BBFC is not readily available.

No data are recorded for films released on DVD which are exempt from classification, as this exemption renders them outside of any administrative process.

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will bring forward proposals to require the UK-based producers of DVDs to provide a subtitle option for all content. [24485]

Mr Vaizey: There are no plans to bring forward proposals to require the UK-based producers of DVDs to provide a subtitle option for all content.

Football

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 21 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 14W, on football club governance, (1) what progress has been made on exploring better ways to involve supporters in their local clubs; [24415]

(2) what steps he plans to take to encourage the Football Association, Premier League and Football League to work closely together to improve the governance and regulation of the game. [24416]

Hugh Robertson: My current priority is to win the World Cup bid for 2018.

Following the conclusion of this work, I will continue my discussions with the football authorities on the question of governance reform and supporter involvement. As outlined in the DCMS Business Plan, I plan to set out the way forward in these areas in May 2011.

To its credit, the Premier League has already taken steps to introduce a number of new rules for this season, specifically in the areas of club ownership and financial reporting.

We continue to monitor the effect of these changes and what further action might be necessary.

Public Expenditure

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether his Department has established processes to monitor any effects of proposed reductions in its expenditure. [21636]

John Penrose: The Department explored the implications of reductions during the spending review process and we will continue to work closely with our public bodies to manage the changes.

On 8 November we published a new Business Plan for 2011-15, which details the priorities and major reforms to reflect the new settlement. Implementation of the Business Plan will be monitored by the DCMS Board, with updates on progress against actions published on a monthly basis.

Sports: Clubs

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what representations he has received on the effects on local communities of co-operative sports clubs. [24076]

Hugh Robertson: According to our records, this Department has received no recent representations on the effects on local communities of co-operative sports clubs.

Television: Disability Aids

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with Ofcom on the code on television access services. [23952]

Mr Vaizey: On 11 June 2010, Ofcom published a statement following a review of television access services in the UK. On 14 July 2010, the Government responded to Ofocm's review.

The Government's response, as well as more information on this review, is available on the Department for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport's website, and can be found using the link:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/publications/7237.aspx#letters

The Secretary of State has had no recent discussions with Ofcom on the code on television access services since responding to Ofcom's review.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Allotments

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on restrictions on allotment holders selling surplus produce to local markets and shops. [24436]

Andrew Stunell: An allotment garden must, by definition, be "wholly or mainly cultivated by the occupier for the production of vegetable or fruit crops for consumption by himself or his family" (Allotments Act 1922). There is no legal restriction on allotment holders selling genuine surplus produce, nor do the Government believe that there should be.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether any *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* civil servants and *(c)* politically-appointed staff in his Department have been disciplined for defamation since his appointment; and if he will make a statement. [23831]

Robert Neill: Since the Secretary of State for the Department for Communities and Local Government's appointment there have been no instances of disciplinary action for defamation against *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* civil servants and *(c)* politically-appointed staff.

Empty Dwelling Management Orders

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* empty dwelling management orders have been made and *(b)* empty properties have been returned to use through an empty dwelling management order in each local authority area since the introduction of such orders. [23645]

Andrew Stunell: A list of empty dwelling management orders authorised by the Residential Property Tribunal Service in each local authority since they were introduced is set out in the following table. We do not hold information on how many of the properties have been returned to use.

Authority	*Number of EDMOs*
Bolton BC	2
Carlisle DC	3
LB Bromley	2
LB Hammersmith and Fulham	1
LB Hounslow	1
LB Lewisham	7
New Forest DC	1
Norwich city council	7
Oxford city council	1
Peterborough CC	2
South Gloucestershire council	1
South Lakeland	1
South Norfolk DC	1
South Oxfordshire DC	1
South Tyneside BC	1
Southend on Sea	3
Staffordshire Moorlands DC	1
Stockton on Tees council	1
Swale BC	1
Wolverhampton City council	1
Wychavon DC	1
Total	40

Fire Services: East of England

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects the Eastern Region fire control centre to be operational. [23557]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 15 November 2010]:* The East of England control centre would not become operational until after mid-2011 on current timetables. It is not one of the first three control centres in which the IT system is required to be completed by the main FiReControl contractor EADS (now branded Cassidian) for that date.

I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Tamworth (Christopher Pincher) on 15 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 537W, for steps that we have taken to ensure that EADS will meet their contractual obligations.

The FiReControl project, initiated by the last Government, is over budget and behind schedule. As with all major Government projects, it is being reviewed to ensure value for money for the taxpayer. We have been clear that EADS must deliver to time, cost and quality. The new Government are committed to ensuring value for money for the taxpayer, improving resilience and stopping the forced regionalisation of the fire service.

Institute for Fiscal Studies

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department and its predecessors spent on services provided by the Institute for Fiscal Studies in each of the last 10 years. [23403]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and its predecessor the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) were created following the machinery of government changes on 5 May 2006 and 29 May 2002 respectively.

Since the inception of ODPM, the annual total of payments to the Institute for Fiscal Studies is as follows:

	£
2002-03	229.25
2003-04	666.25
2004-95	5,493.13
2005-06	0
2006-07	0
2007-08	0
2008-09	9,921.00
2009-10	31,363.00
2010-11	1,670.00

The 2010-11 spending comprises £70 on research publications, and £1,600 on a training course that took place before the general election.

Expenditure figures prior to 2002-03 are not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Ironbridge Gorge

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress had been made on assessing the extent of land instability in the Ironbridge Gorge. [21228]

Robert Neill: My Department commissioned Advantage West Midlands to procure consultants (Wardell Armstrong) to verify the nature and scale of the land instability problems in the Ironbridge Gorge. My officials have completed the review of the consultants' report and the long-term strategy for addressing the land instability issues in Ironbridge Gorge is being considered following the outcome of the spending review published on 20 October 2010.

Local Government: Sustainable Development

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to make a decision on the proposals for local sustainability strategies made by local authorities under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 that have been shortlisted by the Local Government Association. [24667]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government's Business Plan states that the Government:

> "will decide on proposals already submitted under the Sustainable Communities Act, and publish related steps the Government will take to enable local authorities to achieve what they want to see happen"

by January 2011.

Non-domestic Rates: Surcharges

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government from what budget the cost of holding a binding vote on local authority proposals to introduce a local supplement on business rates would be met; and by what means such a binding vote would be held. [24060]

Robert Neill: It will be the responsibility of the levying authority to cover the cost of running a business rate supplement ballot. It is intended that a business rate supplement vote would be held via a postal ballot. A successful outcome will be where there is a simple majority of those who have voted in favour both in terms of the number of properties liable for the business rate supplement and the rateable value they represent.

Social Rented Housing: Lewisham

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of the planned funding for decent homes announced in the comprehensive spending review will be made available to the Lewisham arm's-length management organisation. [24445]

Andrew Stunell: In the spending review we announced that we will invest over £2 billion of capital funding to help towards completing the Decent Homes programme. Of this, nearly £1.6 billion will be available over the next four years to help make local authority homes decent. We will be working with the Homes and Communities Agency to ensure that funding is allocated where it is needed. On 11 November we launched a consultation document jointly with the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) containing our proposals for managing the allocation process.

Travellers

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the progress of his Department's review of the law affecting Travellers; and if he will make a statement. [23883]

Andrew Stunell: We are working on proposals to strengthen the powers that local authorities have to enforce against breaches of planning control and limiting the opportunities for retrospective planning applications in relation to any form of unauthorised development.

The Government will bring into force section 318 of the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 which includes local authority Traveller sites in the Mobile Homes Act 1983.

Later this month we will be introducing the Localism Bill to Parliament, which will abolish regional strategies.

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations he has received on the law relating to Travellers; and if he will make a statement. [23884]

Andrew Stunell: Between 18 June 2010 and 10 November 2010, we received 268 letters from members of the public, 123 items of ministerial correspondence, two petitions and two Freedom of Information requests on issues related to Travellers. The majority of these are about planning policy and about 30 relate to trespass and unauthorised encampments.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Crown Prosecution Service

Mr Umunna: To ask the Attorney-General what plans he has for the future of each Crown Prosecution Service office. [24036]

The Solicitor-General: The following table records each property on the CPS estate. Planned closures have been agreed for a number of properties and these are noted on the table. Unless noted otherwise, it is planned that the majority of other sites will be retained at least until the next lease break opportunity or lease expiry.

Location	*Property*	*Break date*	*Lease expiry date*	*Plan*
Ashton	Police Station	21 January 2015	20 January 2030	No site specific plan
Aylesbury	Prebendal Court	No break date	3 January 2013	No site specific plan
Barrow in Furness	Emlyn Hughes House	1 October 2018	1 October 2023	No site specific plan
Birkenhead	Atlantic House	30 April 2011	30 April 2016	Office vacant, break exercised and interest will be disposed 30 April 2011
Birmingham	Colmore Gate	No break date	23 June 2019	No site specific plan
Blackpool	Prudential House	n/a	10 November 2015	New lease has six month rolling break. Staff have moved to Preston and break will be exercised this month bringing the lease to an end in May 2011
Bolton	Police Station	21 January 2015	20 January 2030	No site specific plan
Bournemouth	Oxford House	No break date	28 September 2012	No site specific plan
Bradford	Windsor House	No break date	30 September 2018	No site specific plan
Brighton	Dyke Road City Gate	18 October 2012	17 October 2017	Staff to relocate from Eastbourne
Bristol	Froomsgate House	No break date	23 June 2012	No site specific plan
Burnley	Burnley Wharf	No break date	25 June 2018	No site specific plan
Canterbury	Riding Gate House	No break date	22 September 2023	No site specific plan
Cardiff	Capital Tower (floors 19-21)	7 December 2016	7 December 2021	No site specific plan
Cardiff	Capital Tower (part 13th floor)	No break date	5 January 2020	No site specific plan
Carlisle	Stocklund House	No break date	31 January 2011	Staff from Workington relocated here earlier this year. Business case for extending lease is being considered.
Carmarthen	Caebanc	Owned	Owned	No site specific plan
Chelmsford	County House	No break date	29 March 2019	No site specific plan
Chester	Windsor House	No break date	23 June 2014	No site specific plan
Chichester	Citygates	No break date	8 March 2013	No site specific plan
Chippenham	Fox Talbot House	No break date	24 December 2019	No site specific plan
Colwyn Bay	Llys Eirias	No break date	24 June 2018	No site specific plan
Coventry	Friars House (4th-10th Floors)	No break date	24 December 2014	No site specific plan
Crosby	Heron House	No break date	6 May 2016	No site specific plan
Croydon	Southern House	No break date	27 September 2019	No site specific plan
Cwmbran	Vantage Point House	24 March 2018	24 March 2023	No site specific plan
Derby	St Peters House	No break date	24 March 2010	Office to close in 2011 and staff to relocate to other CPS sites
Droitwich	Artillery House	No break date	28 September 2018	No site specific plan
Eastbourne	St Leonards Road	No break date	31 March 2011	Office to close in 2011 and staff relocate to Brighton
Eastleigh	Black Horse House	No break date	3 November 2011	Office to close in 2011 and staff relocate to Winchester Crown court
Exeter	Hawkins House	No break date	24 March 2015	No site specific plan
Gloucester	Kimbrose Way	No break date	24 March 2015	No site specific plan
Grimsby	Heritage House	No break date	31 March 2012	No site specific plan
Guildford	The Gateway	14 August 2018	14 August 2023	No site specific plan
Harrogate	The Exchange	19 June 2011	19 June 2016	No site specific plan
Hull	Citadel House	8 January 2014	8 January 2019	No site specific plan
Huntingdon	Justinian House	No break date	24 December 2014	No site specific plan
Ipswich	St Vincent House	24 March 2013	24 March 2018	No site specific plan
Lancaster	Rosemary House	28 September 2015	28 September 2020	Vacant-staff have moved into Preston
Leamington Spa	Rossmore House	No break date	29 February 2012	Staff to be relocating to Warwickshire Justice Centre December 2010

Location	*Property*	*Break date*	*Lease expiry date*	*Plan*
Leeds	Jefferson House	No break date	24 March 2015	No site specific plan
Leicester	Princess Court	No break date	21 March 2026	No site specific plan
Lincoln	The Regatta Suites	No break date	28 May 2019	No site specific plan
Liverpool	Magistrates court	No break date	3 April 2006	No site specific plan
Liverpool	Royal Liver Building	1 January 2012	31 December 2013	No site specific plan
London	Marlowe House	No break date	25 March 2014	Site occupied by Met Police
London	New Kings Beam House	No break date	24 December 2011	Office to close in 2011 and staff relocate to other London offices
London	Rose Court	28 September 2013	28 September 2018	No site specific plan
London	The Cooperage	No break date	23 June 2014	No site specific plan
Luton	Sceptre House	No break date	23 June 2014	No site specific plan
Maidstone	Priory Gate	No break date	24 December 2016	No site specific plan
Manchester	Sunlight House	No break date	5 March 2012	No site specific plan
Mansfield	Phoenix House	24 March 2011	22 October 2016	No site specific plan
Merthyr Tydfil	Cambria House	No break date	24 March 2015	No site specific plan
Middlesbrough	Building One	31 March 2012	31 March 2022	No site specific plan
Middlesbrough	Building One	31 March 2017	31 March 2022	No site specific plan
Newcastle upon Tyne	St Ann's Quay	No break date	3 June 2018	No site specific plan
Newtown Powys	Powys Afon House	1 April 2016	31 March 2019	No site specific plan
Northampton	Beaumont House	No break date	1 October 2011	No site specific plan
Norwich	Carmelite House	No break date	23 June 2018	No site specific plan
Nottingham	King Edward Court	No break date	28-Apr-2013	No site specific plan
Oldham	Cromwell Court	No break date	24 March 2015	No site specific plan
Oxford	Gemini One	14 July 2016	13 July 2021	No site specific plan
Plymouth	St Andrews Court	24 December 2013	24 December 2018	No site specific plan
Portsmouth	Crown House	Owned	Owned	No site specific plan
Preston	Unicentre	24 April 2016	23 April 2021	No site specific plan
Rochdale	Newgate House	No break date	31 March 2011	Plan to relocate to other CPS premises
Sheffield	Greenfield House	Owned	Owned	No site specific plan
Shrewsbury	Lakeside Business Park	No break date	19 April 2013	No site specific plan
St Albans	Queen's House	No break date	30 January 2023	No site specific plan
Stafford	Parker Court	16 November 2016	16 November 2021	No site specific plan
Stoke on Trent	Etruria Valley Office Village	No break date	16 May 2016	No site specific plan
Swansea	Princess House	No break date	28 September 2011	Office to close in 2011 and staff to relocate to other local offices
Victoria	Artillery Row	No break date	23 June 2013	Wholly sublet to commercial tenant
Wakefield	South Parade	No break date	28 September 2015	No site specific plan
Warrington	Bankside Chambers	31 August 2011 (part site)	24 December 2016	No site specific plan. Break exercised on part of site.
Wigan	Kingscroft Court	No break date	24 December 2016	Wholly sublet
Wigan	Police Station	21 January 2015	20 January 2030	No site specific plan
Wolverhampton	St Georges House	No break date	17 January 2011	Office to close in 2011 and staff relocate to other local offices
Workington	Prosper House	No break date	12 June 2014	Vacant-staff moved into Carlisle
Wrexham	Bromfield House	25 March 2013	24 March 2018	No site specific plan
York	Athena House	17 February 2015	17 February 2020	No site specific plan
York	United House	No break date	12 December 2013	No site specific plan

Mr Umunna: To ask the Attorney-General how many cases prosecuted by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) in each *(a)* magistrates and *(b)* Crown court in each local authority area were stopped or lost as a result of (i) discontinuance and (ii) attrition of CPS staff in each of the last three years. [24040]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) collects data about the cases it prosecutes, but its data collection system is based on the number of defendants prosecuted rather than individual offences.

The CPS comprises 42 areas whose boundaries are largely based on those of the police forces of England and Wales. These boundaries are not co-terminate with either local authority boundaries or with those of individual magistrates courts or Crown courts.

The detailed data requested for individual magistrates courts and Crown courts can be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However there are data available which show: (i) the total of prosecutions discontinued by the CPS; (ii) the totals of other unsuccessful outcomes; (iii) the total of all unsuccessful outcomes; and, (iv) the totals of successful outcomes for each CPS area in the last three years for both magistrates court cases and Crown court cases. The data for prosecutions dropped by the CPS include cases that are discontinued, withdrawn or where no evidence is offered. Other unsuccessful outcomes will include all acquittals after trial. CPS data do not identify whether the reason for dropping a case was due to attrition of CPS staff. Tables containing these data have been deposited in the Library of the House.

Crown Prosecution Service: Closures

Mr Umunna: To ask the Attorney-General which Crown Prosecution Service offices have closed in the last 12 months. [24035]

The Attorney-General: Between 1 October 2009 and 30 October 2010 the following CPS offices closed.

1. Solar House, Stratford, London
2. Ludgate Hill, City of London
3. Kings House, Harrow, London
4. The Old Barracks, Grantham
5. Crosstrend House, Lincoln
6. Tolworth Tower, Surbiton
7. Atlantic House, Birkenhead, Merseyside
8. Prosper House, Workington
9. Rosemary House, Lancaster
10. Prudential House, Blackpool

Crown Prosecution Service: Personnel

Mr Umunna: To ask the Attorney-General how many Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) staff there were in each local authority area in each year since 2005; and how many cases were referred to the CPS in each local authority area in each such year. [24038]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) is divided into 42 geographical areas across England and Wales. The number of staff in each area since 2005 is shown in table 1.

The CPS does not keep data on the basis of local authority boundaries, but on the basis of its area structure. Data are therefore only available for the 42 geographically based CPS areas.

The number of cases referred to the CPS includes all cases charged by the police which the CPS prosecutes, and the cases referred to the CPS by the police for a pre-charge decision. The breakdown between pre-charge decisions and cases charged by the police, in the last five years, are provided in tables 2 and 3 as follows.

Table 1 CPS staff

	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
ENGLAND and WALES	7148	7500	7820	7705	7700	7550
Avon and Somerset	173	191	198	183	188	177
Bedfordshire	63	68	63	71	74	76
Cambridgeshire	69	68	73	80	78	77
Cheshire	109	105	108	115	115	112
Cleveland	107	112	116	110	104	99
Cumbria	78	77	82	79	80	79
Derbyshire	104	111	115	122	123	119
Devon and Cornwall	121	136	134	125	122	121
Dorset	56	64	69	74	77	78
Durham	79	76	77	84	92	93
Dyfed-Powys	66	68	65	64	61	62
Essex	154	151	163	172	185	191
Gloucestershire	55	55	52	55	61	55
Greater Manchester	464	485	511	502	474	457
Gwent	83	81	85	97	86	84
Hampshire and I.O.W	223	226	246	248	243	239
Hertfordshire	97	116	128	114	120	120
Humberside	101	118	123	122	118	119
Kent	160	163	186	179	188	182
Lancashire	238	249	256	242	252	264
Leicestershire	117	130	130	128	119	120
Lincoln	64	79	78	82	79	70
London	1334	1336	1455	1394	1364	1319
Merseyside	295	319	303	276	259	247
Norfolk	93	100	100	99	95	90
North Wales	72	80	83	82	84	83
North Yorkshire	72	76	77	83	85	82
Northamptonshire	66	73	74	82	81	77
Northumbria	254	259	272	268	274	266
Nottinghamshire	165	163	172	157	182	184
South Wales	210	233	252	226	241	234
South Yorkshire	180	192	192	183	195	195
Staffordshire	138	139	149	156	152	144
Suffolk	74	76	76	75	70	70
Surrey	68	69	73	77	81	80
Sussex	131	152	157	162	165	167
Thames Valley	193	217	221	228	246	247
Warwickshire	38	39	43	43	42	40
West Mercia	110	140	144	149	147	148
West Midlands	515	530	531	530	515	501
West Yorkshire	309	322	330	322	317	324
Wiltshire	50	56	58	65	66	58

Table 2 Pre-charge decisions

	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010P*
ENGLAND and WALES	577,286	564,200	538,055	485,409	402,193
Avon and Somerset	12,179	11,273	15,558	10,916	8,714
Bedfordshire	5,985	5,733	6,147	5,615	4,441
Cambridgeshire	7,446	6,194	6,563	5,746	5,652
Cheshire	9,573	10,147	9,473	8,527	6,658
Cleveland	6,392	6,498	6,927	6,045	5,085
Cumbria	6,642	5,950	5,528	5,319	3,425
Derbyshire	11,970	12,181	11,364	9,126	7,977
Devon and Cornwall	8,681	11,088	10,302	9,367	7,152
Dorset	7,825	6,137	5,981	4,631	3,935
Durham	7,144	7,776	7,409	6,927	4,957
Dyfed Powys	3,875	3,304	2,603	2,427	2,022
Essex	13,990	15,847	14,028	12,336	10,707
Gloucestershire	5,097	5,662	5,661	5,189	3,136
Greater Manchester	35,713	33,146	28,817	27,742	26,746
Gwent	6,480	6,531	5,921	5,609	4,675
Hampshire and I.O.W	15,734	19,015	19,281	17,242	13,725
Hertfordshire	8,061	8,053	6,098	5,460	5,291
Humberside	8,486	8,144	8,568	7,980	6,760
Kent	12,637	14,021	13,264	11,554	9,074
Lancashire	24,680	23,174	22,292	21,248	17,659
Leicestershire	10,061	9,992	8,118	8,047	6,152
Lincolnshire	5,597	3,974	4,266	3,703	2,861
London	84,990	83,786	86,406	72,262	64,208
Merseyside	20,374	19,616	18,405	15,014	12,171
Norfolk	7,729	7,383	7,381	7,305	5,876

Table 2 Pre-charge decisions

	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*[1]
Northamptonshire	5,713	5,627	5,167	5,323	4,198
Northumbria	20,158	18,490	15,797	12,891	9,860
North Wales	9,114	7,894	7,806	7,762	5,977
North Yorkshire	7,700	7,514	7,483	6,941	4,883
Nottinghamshire	12,818	13,316	10,275	11,792	9,744
South Wales	16,582	14,631	15,487	15,694	12,500
South Yorkshire	14,264	13,668	13,136	11,607	8,776
Staffordshire	13,382	11,340	10,383	9,020	6,266
Suffolk	8,356	7,187	6,531	5,381	4,800
Surrey	4,816	5,983	6,319	4,789	6,084
Sussex	15,655	15,303	15,327	14,021	12,309
Thames Valley	15,518	16,296	14,736	13,469	11,579
Warwickshire	4,101	3,695	2,968	2,375	1,908
West Mercia	12,078	12,256	10,758	9,057	6,918
West Midlands	41,633	41,242	33,581	31,315	23,858
West Yorkshire	23,933	20,839	21,454	23,675	20,433
Wiltshire	4,131	4,294	4,486	4,960	3,041

[1] January to October

Table 3 Police charged prosecutions

	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*[1]
ENGLAND and WALES	762,740	693,192	677,320	663,636	536,011
Avon and Somerset	20,909	20,328	17,257	16,433	14,183
Bedfordshire	7,723	6,607	6,185	5,944	4,375
Cambridgeshire	10,095	7,970	7,652	7,516	6,040
Cheshire	13,510	14,225	14,165	13,485	10,423
Cleveland	8,846	8,784	9,478	9,533	7,763
Cumbria	10,174	9,092	8,705	7,286	5,713
Derbyshire	10,401	9,962	8,512	7,425	5,846
Devon and Cornwall	18,753	16,544	16,274	15,599	12,629
Dorset	9,450	7,510	6,687	6,551	5,005
Durham	7,260	6,952	6,152	5,321	4,480
Dyfed Powys	8,829	7,808	7,922	7,661	6,193
Essex	18,339	17,508	18,126	18,863	14,832
Gloucestershire	5,604	4,842	5,083	4,747	3,334
Greater Manchester	51,020	42,073	42,195	36,121	28,471
Gwent	11,097	10,077	7,384	6,834	4,984
Hampshire and I.O.W	19,897	20,372	20,503	20,999	16,538
Hertfordshire	14,337	12,536	12,547	13,467	10,512
Humberside	10,527	10,838	11,089	10,791	8,885
Kent	19,965	18,887	17,191	16,639	13,019
Lancashire	25,445	23,470	22,111	23,397	17,292
Leicestershire	13,211	10,692	10,624	9,962	7,907
Lincolnshire	11,927	10,591	10,029	9,534	6,345
London	99,150	87,736	98,058	108,937	102,861
Merseyside	16,347	20,006	22,787	24,377	18,885
Norfolk	10,553	10,212	9,383	8,553	7,424
Northamptonshire	8,856	8,789	7,748	7,239	5,341
Northumbria	30,626	30,659	25,119	23,318	19,275
North Wales	11,537	9,519	8,918	9,206	7,817
North Yorkshire	8,517	7,734	8,200	7,203	5,389
Nottinghamshire	14,729	13,928	16,508	11,607	11,086
South Wales	24,172	19,153	18,894	18,844	14,096
South Yorkshire	18,695	17,724	17,991	16,880	13,819
Staffordshire	16,180	14,826	13,446	10,986	9,327
Suffolk	8,130	7,028	8,538	10,084	6,103
Surrey	7,039	8,208	8,002	7,848	5,850
Sussex	15,947	13,579	11,904	12,069	9,496
Thames Valley	31,998	26,577	22,119	22,527	17,166
Warwickshire	6,175	5,115	4,595	5,387	4,734
West Mercia	18,580	17,332	15,463	14,363	10,793
West Midlands	40,371	37,275	35,403	34,017	21,743
West Yorkshire	37,552	32,437	30,947	28,595	25,749
Wiltshire	10,267	7,687	7,426	7,488	4,288

[1] January to October

Departmental Contracts

Ian Austin: To ask the Attorney-General what the monetary value is of contracts the Law Officers' Departments have awarded to each *(a)* management consultancy and *(b)* IT company since 7 May 2010. [16193]

The Attorney-General: The information is as follows:

Monetary value of contracts awarded by TSOL to management consultancy companies from 7 May 2010 to 31 October 2010

TSOL has awarded no contracts to management consultancy companies since 7 May 2010.

Monetary value of contracts awarded by TSOL to IT companies from 7 May 2010 to 31 October 2010

Company	*Value of contract (£)*
Specialist computer centres	10,800
Insight	5,306
Kelway UK Ltd	149,538
Total	165,644

Monetary value of contracts awarded by the SFO to management consultancy companies from 7 May 2010 to 31 October 2010

Company	*Value of contracts (£)*
Corven Consulting Ltd	[1]173,792
PA Consulting	[2]851,044
Skills for Justice	6,483
Total	1,031,319

[1] Includes £96,680 accrued

[2] Includes £213,660 accrued

Monetary value of contracts awarded by the SFO to IT companies from 7 May 2010 to 31 October 2010

Company	*Value of contracts (£)*
COA Solutions Ltd	1,345
2E2 UK Ltd	2,625
Sanderson Forensics Ltd	16,263
Specialist Computer Centres plc	58,925
Sungard Vivista	3,142,000
Total	3,221,158

Monetary value of contracts awarded by the NFA to management consultancy companies from 7 May 2010 to 31 October 2010

Company	*Value of contracts (£)*
Magic Beans Consultancy Ltd	400

Monetary value of contracts awarded by the NFA to IT companies from 7 May 2010 to 31 October 2010

Company	*Value of contracts (£)*
BrightWave Ltd	29,493

The CPS, AGO and HMCPSI have not awarded any contracts to management consultancy or IT companies since 7 May 2010.

Newspaper Press: Telephone Tapping

Mr Watson: To ask the Attorney-General whether the Director of Public Prosecutions was informed that the Metropolitan Police Service held transcribed voicemail messages as part of its telephone hacking and blagging investigation; and if he will make a statement. [23795]

The Attorney-General: In 2006 two people were prosecuted for offences of conspiracy to intercept communications and related offences. The DPP at the time, Sir Ken McDonald QC, now Lord MacDonald of River Glavern, and the reviewing lawyer are no longer in post, and no information is contained in the prosecution file on this specific issue. It is not therefore possible to ascertain whether the DPP was informed that the Metropolitan Police Service held transcribed voicemail messages as part of its investigation into telephone hacking.

Prosecutions: Convictions

Mr Umunna: To ask the Attorney-General what proportion of prosecutions in each local authority area in each of the last 12 months resulted in a conviction. [24170]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) collects data on prosecutions conducted by them. Other Government Departments and local authorities also conduct prosecutions, which are not captured in the data retained by the CPS. CPS data relate to defendants and not to individual offences, and are recorded on the basis of the 42 geographically separate CPS areas, not local authority areas.

Tables showing the percentage of convictions for each CPS area for each of the last 12 months in the period 2009-10, together with the total successful and unsuccessful outcomes for each CPS area, for each month in that year, have been deposited in the Library of the House.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what timetable she has set for the merger of Animal Health and the Veterinary Laboratories Agency; and if she will make a statement. [23725]

Mr Paice: The Secretary of State announced on 29 June that Animal Health and the Veterinary Laboratories Agency were going to be merged. We are aiming to formally merge these bodies on 1 April 2011. The merger will bring together services, expertise and scientific capability on animal health. In resource constrained times it will improve our resilience in delivering important services, including our animal disease emergency response capability and science requirements for animal health.

Animal Products: EU Law

Caroline Nokes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the potential market for a facility to store animal products that do not comply with EU import requirements. [23280]

Mr Paice: The UK has no approved stores or warehouses for the storage of animal products that do not meet the EU import conditions.

The importation into the EU of animal products could pose a risk to animal and public health unless it is properly controlled. Each consignment of animal products must be accompanied by appropriate documentation and must enter the EU through a Border Inspection Post (BIP), where checks are carried out to ensure that import conditions have been met.

While Council Directive 97/78 (the Veterinary Checks Directive), provides that non-conforming animal products may be stored within the EU in specially approved warehouses, subject to stringent controls, provided their ultimate destination is outside the EU, the Directive also provides that member states can refuse to allow storage of such goods in their territory on the grounds that they pose an animal or public health risk.

The UK therefore deems these products to be a risk. Regulation 47 of the Products of Animal Origin (Third Country Imports) (England) Regulations 2006 prohibits imports of non-conforming products into a warehouse in free zones, a free warehouse or a customs warehouse in England.

Beak Trimming

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the membership of the Beak Trimming Action Group will be once it has been reconvened. [24528]

Mr Paice: The Beak Trimming Action Group will consist of poultry industry representatives, poultry breeders, welfare groups, representatives from scientific and veterinary professions, researchers and DEFRA officials.

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 8 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 2-4WS, on beak trimming (laying hens), who will be responsible for the cost of industry study tours to European countries where beak trimming is not carried out. [24525]

Mr Paice: In order to progress towards a ban on beak trimming, I have asked the industry to carry out its own study tours to European countries—for example Austria, where beak trimming is not carried out—and to consider experiences from their industry colleagues. Results of these tours will be fed back to the Beak Trimming Action Group to consider when formulating an action plan that will work toward a future ban on this procedure.

Circuses: Animal Welfare

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects to make an announcement on the outcome of the consultation on the use of wild animals in travelling circuses. [23888]

Mr Paice: An announcement will be made early in the new year.

Common Land

Alan Keen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many recommendations she received for the registration of new town and village greens in each of the last 10 years; how many new town and village greens were registered in each such year; and what size the town and village greens were in each case. [24278]

Richard Benyon: Commons registration authorities (county councils in two-tier local authority areas) are responsible for processing and determining applications to register land as a town or village green under section 15(1) of the Commons Act 2006.

The figures in the following table are estimates derived from surveys of commons registration authorities in England, and scaled up accordingly. The data include registrations made under section 13(b) of the Commons Registration Act 1965 (the predecessor to section 15(1) of the 2006 Act), but do not include registrations made on a voluntary application by the owner under section 15(8) of the 2006 Act. There are no national data available for 2000-02.

Greens registered

	Number
2009 (to end of September)	17
2008	26
2007	18
2006	8
2005	30
2004	9
2003	10

No data are collected centrally on the size of registered greens. However, a sample study of 25 greens registered between 2001 and 2009 found that the median size was 0.3 hectares.

Alan Keen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations her Department has received on legislation relating to the registration of new town and village greens; whether she plans to review this legislation; and if she will make a statement. [24279]

Richard Benyon: A number of representations have been received recently from Members of Parliament, local authorities, and others about the registration of land as town or village greens.

The Government are considering whether change to the greens registration system is required as part of their commitment to create a new designation to protect green areas, and as a response to the Penfold Review, which recommended making changes to the registration system to remove obstacles to development. I hope to make an announcement later this year.

Alan Keen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many applications for the registration of town and village greens were rejected by commons registration authorities in each of the last 10 years. [24280]

Richard Benyon: The figures in the following table are estimates derived from surveys of commons registration authorities in England, and scaled up accordingly. The data include applications rejected under both section 15(1) of the Commons Act 2006, and section 13(b) of the Commons Registration Act 1965. There are no national data available for 2000-02.

	Number of applications rejected
2009[1]	79
2008	52
2007	35
2006	16
2005	22
2004	29
2003	30

[1] To end of September.

Dangerous Dogs

Jane Ellison: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on her Department's consultation on dangerous dogs. [23004]

Mr Paice: Discussions between officials at DEFRA and the Home Office about the link between antisocial behaviour and dangerous dogs are ongoing. An announcement about the publication of the summary of responses to the consultation on dangerous dogs and a way forward will be made soon.

Departmental Information Officers

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many press officers are employed by *(a)* her Department, *(b)* the Environment Agency, *(c)* Natural England and *(d)* each other non-departmental public body sponsored by her Department; and if she will make a statement. [23727]

Richard Benyon: The information requested is set out as follows.

(a) DEFRA—20 press officers

Desk	Number of press officers
Head of News	1
Food, Farming and Animal Health and Welfare	6
Natural Environment, Rural Affairs, Water and Waste	6
Climate, Flooding and Science	4.5
Strategic Media Planning	2.5

(b) The Environment Agency—26.5 press officers

Region	*Number of press officers*
Anglian	2
Midlands	3
Wales	2.5
North East	2
North West	2
South West	1
Southern	3
Thames	4
Head office	8

(c) Natural England

	Number of press officers
Natural England	5

(d) Other non-departmental public bodies sponsored by DEFRA

	Number of press officers
Marine Management Organisation	1
CEFAS	[1]—
Forestry Commission	3
British Waterways	2
Gangmasters Licensing Authority	1
Rural Payments Agency	[1]—
Food and Environment Research Agency	1

[1] Equivalent of 0.5 people's jobs

Departmental Lobbying

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how much her Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent from the public purse on influencing public policy through *(a)* employing external (i) public affairs companies, (ii) strategic consultancies and (iii) corporate communications firms, *(b)* external marketing and *(c)* other activities in each of the last 10 years; [23755]

(2) which of her Department's non-departmental public bodies have undertaken activities to influence public policy for which they engaged *(a)* public affairs and *(b)* public relations consultants in each year since 1997; and at what monetary cost in each such year. [23792]

Richard Benyon: None of my Department's agencies or non-departmental public bodies have spent public money on these activities.

Environment Agency: Watercourses

Karl McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to ensure that the Environment Agency has adequate resources to maintain all its watercourses. [24529]

Richard Benyon: The Environment Agency is responsible for maintenance of watercourses designated as "main rivers". Local authorities will continue to be funded by Formula Grant for their responsibilities for ordinary watercourses.

Environment Agency resources to carry out routine maintenance will be protected as far as possible. They will continue to be targeted, on a risk based approach, towards the parts of the country where the consequences of flooding would be highest.

Livestock: Overseas Trade

Neil Parish: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many live *(a)* horses, *(b)* asses, *(c)* mules and *(d)* hinnies have been (i) exported from and (ii) imported into the UK from (A) EU member states and (B) third countries in each of the last two years; and for what purposes these animals were exported and imported in each case. [23318]

Mr Paice: Details of the total number of live horses, asses, mules and hinnies exported from Great Britain and imported into the UK from EU member states and third countries for 2008 and 2009 are provided in the tables, as recorded in the Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES) and the Certification of Exports, Notification of Trade and Assessment of Underlying Risk (CENTAUR) databases.

Registered horses need not be recorded in TRACES as they can move freely between EU member states accompanied by a health attestation document, which is valid for 10 days, and a valid horse passport.

It is not possible to split these figures into individual categories of horses, asses, mules and hinnies or to ascertain for what purposes these animals were exported and imported as these data are not recorded.

Total number of live horses, asses, mules and hinnies exported from Great Britain 2008-09

	2008	*2009*
EU	6,914	6,965
Non-EU	3,233	2,673
Total	10,147	9,638

Source:
Certification of Exports, Notification of Trade and Assessment of Underlying Risk (CENTAUR) database

Total number of live horses, asses, mules and hinnies imported into the UK 2008-09

	2008	*2009*
EU	3,858	3,147
Non-EU	1,529	1,341
Total	5,387	4,488

Source:
European Commission's Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES) database

Ofwat

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what mechanism her Department has to assess the impartiality of Ofwat; and what the outcome was of the most recent assessment made by Ministers; [23360]

(2) if she will assess the merits of merging Ofwat with *(a)* Ofgem and *(b)* the Consumer Council for Water; [23361]

(3) what recent assessment she has made of the performance of Ofwat against its objectives. [23372]

Richard Benyon: On 26 August the Secretary of State announced the launch of a review of Ofwat, with an accompanying call for evidence that closed on 29 October.

The review aims to ensure Ofwat is fit for future challenges. It is examining how the regulator works, whether it offers good value for money and if it is delivering what Government and customers expect. The review is also looking at the effectiveness of the Consumer Council for Water and its relationship with Ofwat and the water companies. The terms of reference for the Ofwat review can be found on DEFRA's website.

The review team is working closely, where appropriate, with the Department for Energy and Climate Change's review of Ofgem, which is also under way.

The Ofwat review is being run in parallel with the Water White Paper which is due for publication in June next year. The review will feed into the White Paper's development.

Redundancy

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many redundancies she expects there to be in each pay grade in her Department in each of the next five years; and what estimate she has made of the cost of such redundancies to her Department in each year. [24526]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA will make the reduction in headcount through natural wastage and voluntary departures wherever possible, with compulsory redundancies as a last resort. Until we know the numbers who take up voluntary departure, it will not be possible to estimate the number of compulsory redundancies. However, overall, we expect DEFRA and its arm's-length bodies to have between 5,000 and 8,000 fewer jobs by 2015.

Water Supply: Industry

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will assess the merits of measures to encourage water-intensive industries to locate in areas less prone to water shortages. [23362]

Richard Benyon: Business decisions on the best place to locate will take into account many factors, including the availability of adequate water supplies.

A water-intensive business will usually want to obtain a licence to abstract water from the environment as this is cheaper than paying for water supplied by water companies. Business can make use of the published information on water availability via the Environment Agency's catchment abstraction management strategies. These identify the availability of water resources for new abstractions, and areas where water is unlikely to be available.

In addition, there are mechanisms in place to encourage efficient use of water by businesses, including water-intensive industries. The water technology list identifies products, across a range of technologies, that are at the leading edge of efficient water consumption. These technologies benefit from enhanced capital allowances. Investments in such products give long-term financial benefits by reducing the amount of water that needs to be abstracted from the environment or obtained from the public water supply.

The Water White Paper, which we intend to publish in June next year, will address the question of the management of water resources, both now and in the future.

Wild Horses

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will bring forward proposals to reduce the incidence of wild horses damaging private property. [22600]

Mr Paice: I do not intend to bring forward proposals to reduce the incidence of "wild horses" damaging private property. Depending upon the circumstances and nature of the damage caused, the owners of those free roaming horses that cause damage may be liable under the Animals Act 1971. If any horses causing damage are not owned, they may be controlled in a legal and humane manner.

Wildlife: Internet

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made on reducing the level of wildlife trade on the internet since the last meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. [24066]

Richard Benyon: Further to the response I gave the hon. Member on 12 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 457-58W, DEFRA is in the final stages of commissioning a project to establish a baseline of the scope and volume of wildlife trade via the internet. This project will also develop a search methodology to monitor illegal activity which will be shared with enforcement agencies worldwide. Following receipt of the results of that project, DEFRA will consider how best to tackle the use of the internet for illegal wildlife sales, including the possible issuance of a code of conduct for internet operators.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministerial Conference

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how much the Government Equalities Office spent on attendance at the Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministerial conference in June 2010; and how many civil servants attended. [22060]

Lynne Featherstone: The UK sent one senior civil servant to this conference, the head of Gender Equality Policy, who is based in the Government Equalities Office.

The cost including travel and subsistence of attending the meeting was £3,195.

Departmental Travel

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how much the Government Equalities Office spent on *(a)* foreign travel, *(b)* hotels, *(c)* taxi fares and *(d)* rail travel in each year since it was established. [22058]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government Equalities Office was established on 12 October 2007. The total expenditure on all travel and subsistence is detailed in the following table. A breakdown of the expenditure into the categories requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Travel and subsistence	*Total expenditure (£)*
2007-08[1]	18,880
2008-09	79,891
2009-10	129,542
2010-11[2]	43,874

[1] From 12 October 2010
[2] As at 31 October 2010

Equal Pay

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what steps she is taking to reduce the gender pay gap. [24207]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government are committed to tackling the barriers that women face in the workplace and are taking a range of measures including making pay secrecy clauses unenforceable, extending the right to request flexible working to all employees, consulting on a new system of parental leave, and promoting gender equality on company boards including asking Lord Davies to fully investigate the issue.

Government Equalities Office: Finance

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what the administrative budget for the Government Equalities Office will be in each of the next five years. [24203]

Lynne Featherstone: The recent spending review settlement, covering the next four years, allocated an administration budget to the Government Equalities Office as follows:

	£ million
2011-12	45.9
2012-13	41.9
2013-14	34.1
2014-15	25.2

The budget for 2015-16 will be fixed by the next spending review.

The budget for the Government Equalities Office covers the costs of its non-departmental public body, the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

TRANSPORT

A69

John Stevenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to upgrade the remaining part of the A69 between Carlisle and Newcastle upon Tyne to a dual carriageway. [19629]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 28 October 2010]*: The Secretary of State for Transport announced on 26 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 177-79W, the Department's plans for funding road improvement schemes for the spending review period, to the end of 2014-15.

The Department for Transport will also take forward work on a number of schemes already under consideration for the next spending review period. At present, the Department is not developing proposals for future schemes on this section of the A69.

Alloy Wheels

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what data his Department collects on road accidents where defective alloy wheels were a contributing factor to the cause of that accident; and if he will make a statement. [23828]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport does not collect any data on whether defective alloy wheels were a contributing factor to the cause of a road accident.

The Department holds several datasets on road accidents. In addition to the police road casualty data (STATS19) there are several in depth studies—the On the Spot study (OTS), the Co-operative Crash Injury Study (CCIS) and the Heavy Vehicle Crash Injury Study (HVCIS). None of these datasets holds any information on whether defective alloy wheels contributed to an accident.

Bus Services

Ben Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to assist competing bus companies to reach co-operative agreements to provide regular services on *(a)* Wherstead road in Ipswich constituency and *(b)* other routes with an identified need. [24510]

Norman Baker: The regulatory framework for buses permits co-operative agreements between bus operators as long as certain conditions are met. We have seen good results in places where local authorities and operators work effectively in partnership to improve bus services—such as in Brighton, York and Cambridge.

While it is the role of Government to set this framework and encourage more of this type of activity for the benefit of bus passengers in Ipswich and elsewhere it is up to local authorities and communities to make it happen. This might be a local authority making a statutory quality bus partnership scheme, as in Nottingham, or instead endorsing a qualifying agreement between two operators, as in Oxford.

Ultimately, however, it is for commercial operators to decide whether to run services such as the route 66 bus in Ipswich, and at what frequency. If a service is not considered commercially viable, a local authority can decide it wishes to tender for and support a replacement service, or discuss with the local community alternative forms of transport provision.

Bus Services: Finance

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the likely effects on (i) bus fares and (ii) service levels of the reduction in bus service operators grant proposed in the spending review. [22266]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport has not commissioned or evaluated any specific research on the likely effects on bus fares and service levels of the reduction in bus service operators grant proposed in the spending review.

With regard to the potential impacts of a reduction in bus service operators grant on fares and bus services I refer the hon. Member to the answer of 15 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 570W.

Bus Services: Information Services

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to amend the Public Service Vehicle Accessibility Regulations *2000* to require on-board audio and visual passenger information systems on buses. [24156]

Norman Baker: Research has been commissioned to assess the costs and benefits of installing audio visual systems on buses. The research project has brought together a cross-section of stakeholders, including Guide Dogs, Royal National Institute of Blind People and Royal National Institute for Deaf People. We will take account of the results of this work in considering any changes to the Public Service Vehicle Accessibility Regulations 2000 (PSVAR). The project is due to report shortly.

Cycling

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of changes in the level of cycling in each cycling city and town in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [23415]

Norman Baker: In 2005 the Department for Transport funded six cycling towns and in 2008 this funding was extended to include a further 11 cycling towns and one city until March 2011. Their remit was to increase significantly their cycling levels.

Preliminary evaluation of the first six cycling demonstration towns (CDTs) provided evidence of early changes in the levels of cycling and physical activity in CDTs across a range of indicators, including a 1 percentage point increase in the estimated proportion of people cycling for 30 minutes at least three times a week, and a 27% increase in levels of cycling as measured by automatic cycle counts. Taken together, these findings (published by Cycling England in 2009) strongly suggest that cycling levels were observably increasing in the CDTs three years after the initiative began, with some evidence indicating that similar increases were not occurring in comparable areas.

Monitoring of cycling levels in the CDTs is ongoing until at least 2011, in order to capture data on the longer-term trends in these towns.

Independent evaluation and monitoring of the 12 new CCTs (cycling city and towns) is scheduled to run until 2012, with final results (including the results of a large-scale pre-and post-intervention household survey) available in 2012-13. Analysis of the monitoring data will not be conducted until a suitable time series is available, to enable intervention effects to be distinguished from seasonal and other natural fluctuations in the data.

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing: Tolls

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans to bring forward proposals to increase charges at the Dartford-Thurrock crossing; and if he will make a statement. [22276]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport intends to begin the necessary consultation on proposals for the new charging regime at the Dartford crossing around the end of 2010.

Increasing the charges as proposed allows future investment in improvements at the crossing, including the implementation of free-flow charging technology, and funding of proposals for a new, additional lower Thames crossing in the longer term.

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many civil servants in his Department have used the flexible benefits project to carry out cost comparison of products to date. [23878]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport's "Your Reward" portal enables staff to view and purchase a range of products offered with retailer discounts. Since the scheme came into operation in November 2009, 88,151 viewings have been recorded to date. There is no information about whether the purpose was to carry out cost comparisons or to view and purchase products.

Departmental Pay

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what allowances and payments in addition to salary were available to officials in his Department and its non-departmental public bodies in each year since 1997; and what the monetary value was of payments and allowances of each type in each such year. [18720]

Norman Baker: Within the Department for Transport, its seven executive agencies and its non-departmental public bodies there are a number of different allowances and payments available to employees who meet the relevant criteria.

However, I regret that a breakdown of these allowances and payments, or their monetary values, can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Policy

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what departmental policy reviews his Department has undertaken since 6 May 2010; on what date each such review *(a)* was announced and *(b)* is expected to publish its findings; what estimate he has made of the cost of each such review; who has been appointed to lead each such review; to what remuneration each review leader is entitled; how many (i) full-time equivalent civil servants and (ii) seconded staff are working on each such review; from which organisations such staff have been seconded; and how much on average such seconded staff will be paid for their work on the review. [21875]

Norman Baker: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 6 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 140W.

Departmental Redundancy

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have been offered enhanced early retirement packages in each of the last three years. [22030]

Norman Baker: The number of staff offered enhanced early retirement packages in *(a)* the Department for Transport and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last three years is set out in the following tables:

(a) Department for Transport

	Number
2008	7
2009	1
2010	114

(b) Agencies

	2008	*2009*	*2010*
Government Car and Despatch Agency	1	1	10
Driving Standards Agency	11	4	2
Driver Vehicle and Licensing Agency	33	49	0
Highways Agency	24	2	6
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	29	4	3
Vehicle Certification Agency	0	0	0
Vehicle and Operator Service Agency	7	99	0
Total for agencies	105	159	21

Departmental Work Experience

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many interns his Department has engaged in the last 12 months; and how many were *(a)* unpaid, *(b)* remunerated with expenses only and *(c)* paid a salary. [17210]

Norman Baker: In the last 12 months the Department for Transport has engaged 16 interns. They were all paid a salary above the minimum wage while on their internship.

Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost to the public purse was of running the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee in each of the last three years. [24455]

Norman Baker: The total cost of the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee, including staff costs, research costs, members' remuneration and expenses was as follows:

	£
2007-08	294,368
2008-09	375,119
2009-10	486,795

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the potential saving to the public purse as a result of the abolition of the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee. [24458]

Norman Baker: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 2 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 703W.

Institute for Fiscal Studies

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has spent on services provided by the Institute for Fiscal Studies in each year since its creation. [23400]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport was formed in May 2002 and information is provided from that date or the date an agency was formed, if later.

The central Department has spent the following on services provided by the Institute for Fiscal Studies:

	£
2003-04	1,275
2004-05	2,743
2006-07	200
2009-10	575

The central Department has no spend on services provided by the Institute for Fiscal Studies in financial years other than those listed above.

None of the seven executive agencies of the Department has any spend on services provided by the Institute for Fiscal Studies.

M18: Speed Limits

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons a 50 mph temporary speed limit was in force on the M18 motorway on 1 November 2010; what guidance he provides to the Highways Agency on the imposition of temporary speed limits when work is not being carried out; and if he will make a statement. [24199]

Mike Penning: Work to replace the central reserve safety barrier is taking place in stages on the M18 between junctions 2 and to the north of junction 4. This is the first in a series of four schemes being undertaken between September 2010 and the end of March 2011.

In order to undertake the work safely and with the minimum of disruption to the road user the hard shoulder is being used to maintain the full complement of running lanes throughout the day. In order to do this a temporary 50mph speed restriction is required. This restriction remains in place on each stage until all the work has been completed and the hard shoulder reinstated.

On 1 November works to replace the central reserve barrier had been completed. The hard shoulder, however, was coned off because works to reinstate the verge safety barriers and inspection chambers were taking place. Works were also being undertaken in the northbound verge to repair drains and install new gullies. Additionally, to the north of junction 3 works were taking place to install both a temporary closed circuit television system in the north and southbound verges as well as speed camera cabling in the southbound verge, for the next stage of barrier works.

On the evening of 1 November night time works to reinstate road markings, which involved a lane closure, were suspended to allow a wide load to pass safely through the works area.

National advice on setting temporary speed limits is given in Traffic Signs Manual Chapter 8 which is developed by the Highways Agency on behalf of Department for Transport. This identifies appropriate speed limits based on the relative risk to road users. This risk is normally the same whether road workers are present or not. The Highways Agency produced additional advice in July 2007 (Chief Highways Engineer Memo 203/07) on how to apply temporary speed limits at road works using the risk based approach in Chapter 8.

Mental Health

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of recommendations relevant to his Department's policy responsibilities contained in the Foresight report on Mental Capacity and Well-Being by the Government Office for Science; if he will ensure that his Department takes steps to promote well-being; if he will ensure that his Department's policy development process takes account of psychological research into subjective well-being; and if he will make a statement. [22754]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 8 November 2010]:* The Department for Transport will consider the recommendations of the Foresight report on Mental Health Capacity and Well-Being, and what this means for the organisation.

Our vision is for a transport system that is an engine for economic growth but one that is also greener and safer and improves quality of life in our communities. Our obligations under the Equality Act 2010 require us to consider the needs of eight vulnerable groups (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation).

The Department for Transport is committed to using the best available evidence when developing policy. In considering the mental health and well-being of our staff, we acknowledge and support the need for the public sector to lead by example. We welcome the availability of centrally provided resources and practical tools for managers and staff on managing mental health and reasonable adjustments.

The Department for transport recognises the benefits of investing in employee health and well-being as a means to reduce both short and long-term sick absence levels, prevent ill health in the workplace, and promote healthier lifestyles.

Work is already taking place across the Department and its seven agencies to proactively respond to local needs by promoting health and well-being. Examples of initiatives already in place include:

Well-being strategies

Health and well-being programmes and targeted training on stress awareness and mental health in the workplace

Physical health screening packages which may help to reduce the risk of severe ill health in the longer term, and early diagnosis of potential health problems

Access to dental and medical health insurance

Learning and development support for managers and staff, including access to Workplace Option provision which provides confidential employee help and advice

Development of a common approach to attendance management across the Department and its agencies, which includes the management of sick absence.

Motor Vehicles: Testing

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether he has made an assessment of the evidence compiled for his Department's 2008 MOT scheme review since his appointment; and if he will make a statement; [24538]

(2) what plans he has for the future of the MOT scheme; and if he will make a statement. [24539]

Mike Penning: Although I am aware of the 2008 evidence, I intend to review the MOT test scheme using the latest information available. However, the Department for Transport has no specific proposals at this stage and no preconceptions about the outcome. The aim of the review will be to strike the right balance between vehicle safety and the burden imposed on motorists by MOT test requirements.

I expect to make an announcement about the timing and scope of the review in due course and there will be an opportunity for anyone with an interest to contribute to the debate.

Parking: Disability

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward legislative proposals for the regulation and enforcement of the use of on-street and off-street disabled parking bays in England and Wales. [24099]

Norman Baker: Local authorities already have powers to enforce on-street disabled person's parking bays in England and Wales. Under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 they may designate by order an on-street parking place reserved for a disabled badge holder. If a disabled person's parking bay has been designated, it would be an offence for non-disabled people to use the space. These bays can be enforced with penalty charge notices or fixed penalty notices. In addition, if prosecuted, an offender faces a fine of up to £1,000. If the local authority chooses not to designate a bay, it remains 'advisory' and cannot be enforced.

The Blue Badge (Disabled Parking) scheme only applies on-street. Enforcement of off-street disabled persons' parking bays is a matter for the individual owner or operator concerned. In the case of local authority off-street car parks, traffic regulation orders made under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 are used to enforce the bays. In private off-street car parks, the charges and conditions of use are essentially a contractual matter between the owner and the motorist.

The Government have no plans to introduce further regulation.

Railways: Construction

Mr Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his plans are for the future of High Speed Rail 2; whether his Department's public consultation will assess *(a)* the route and *(b)* assistance for those whose properties are negatively affected; and if he will make a statement. [24263]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 15 November 2010]:* The coalition Government support a truly national high speed rail network. The Government favour an initial line from London to the west midlands, followed thereafter by lines from the west midlands to Leeds and Manchester. The forthcoming consultation will cover the Government's strategy for high speed rail—including the proposed Y-shaped network—and the route for the initial line.

The Government have already consulted on and introduced the Exceptional Hardship Scheme to assist severely affected property owners who have an urgent need to sell their property. In respect of London to the west midlands I intend to consult on and introduce further arrangements to help people whose property would not be covered by the statutory blight regime, but may nevertheless suffer a significant diminution in value as a result of proximity of any new line. I also recognise that appropriate assistance will be needed when potential routes for the Leeds and Manchester sections are announced, and I will put arrangements for such assistance in place at that point.

Railways: Timetables

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance his Department issues to train operating companies on their legal obligations in respect of the provision of timetable information to the public; and what plans he has to review those obligations to take account of technological developments. [24193]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 15 November 2010]:* The obligation on train operators to provide timetable information to the public is contractual rather than statutory and is contained in train operating companies' franchise agreements with the Department for Transport.

Nothing within their franchise agreements prevents train operators from implementing technological developments to disseminate and publicise their timetables more widely and I would encourage them to do so.

Redundancy

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how much funding to meet staff redundancy costs was identified in his Department's settlement letter in respect of the comprehensive spending review; [21550]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of redundancies arising from the spending reductions proposed in the comprehensive spending review in respect of *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies and *(c)* other public bodies which are dependent on his Department for funding; [21551]

(3) what estimate he has made of the costs to his Department of staff redundancy in each of the next four years. [21552]

Mr Philip Hammond: All pressures on Departments' budgets were taken into account as part of the spending review and settlements were allocated accordingly. The full costs of redundancies will be met from within the Department for Transport's spending review resource DEL settlement.

Determining optimal workforce reforms in order to live within the Department for Transport's spending review resource DEL settlement will be an ongoing process. Detailed decisions regarding the number of redundancies that may be required have yet to be finalised.

Roads: Accidents

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will review the application of legislation relating to cycle road deaths. [24074]

Mike Penning: There is a large amount of legislation in the Traffic Acts which could be used in prosecution proceedings. Additionally the rules in the Highway Code can also be used in court proceedings.

The investigation of road traffic collisions and the enforcement of road traffic law is an operational matter for individual chief officers of police. The police take very seriously all the issues arising from road traffic collisions, especially those where a life has been lost. The National Policing Improvement Agency has issued, on behalf of the Association of Chief Police Officers, a Road Death Investigation Manual to assist efficient and professional investigations.

Roads: Wales

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has plans for a link road between the M40 and the Heads of the Valleys road. [24516]

Mike Penning: I understand the hon. Member's question relates to whether there are any plans for a link road between the M4 and the Heads of the Valleys road.

Road improvement schemes in Wales are a matter for the devolved Administration.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* accuracy and *(b)* effectiveness of the ASSET new generation speed cameras; whether he has plans to introduce such cameras on roads; and if he will make a statement. [24189]

Mike Penning: Assessment of all enforcement equipment is subject to Home Office (HO) type approval, which may be granted after rigorous testing by the Home Office Scientific Development Branch (HOSDB). HO has confirmed that no application has been received by HOSDB for type approval for the ASSET enforcement camera.

The coalition has made clear that it is not for central Government to dictate how local authorities address their priorities and issues. Should this equipment gain type approval in the future, it will be for local authorities and police forces to decide if this equipment is appropriate for their needs.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Asbestos

John Cryer: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Health and Safety Executive Hidden Killer campaign in raising awareness among construction workers about the risk of being exposed to asbestos. [23238]

Chris Grayling: Asbestos is Britain's biggest industrial killer. It is estimated there are around 4,000 asbestos-related deaths each year:

http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/causdis/asbestos.htm

The audience for the campaign were maintenance workers. This group is currently at highest risk from asbestos-related disease and includes those such as plumbers, joiners, electricians, plasterers and general trades people who regularly disturb the fabric of buildings where asbestos is found, without realising it is there, and who may be working on construction sites.

A north-west pilot in March 2008 was assessed through independent pre- and post-campaign tracking carried out by Continental Research. This demonstrated a post-campaign awareness of 81% (from 33% before the campaign), among the target group of plumbers, electricians and general trades people.

The effectiveness of the first national campaign, which ran between October and November 2008, was also assessed pre- and post-campaign. This demonstrated an 80% awareness of the campaign (from 40% before the campaign) among the target group of plumbers, joiners, electricians and general trades people; with more than half saying they were learning something new about the risk associated with asbestos. Ongoing monitoring of HSE's website saw a 600% increase in visits to the pages relating to asbestos.

Assessment of the most recent phase of a national campaign (which in ran November and December 2009) showed an overall awareness post campaign of 85% by trades people, rising to 90% among electricians. In addition, 76% of the audience said they had taken, or planned to take, more safety precautions when working with asbestos.

Departmental Contracts

Mr Russell Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to announce the awarding of the contract to operate the giro cheque scheme. [24287]

Steve Webb: We will make an announcement on the outcome of the exercise to replace cheque payments once a decision has been made.

Departmental Reviews

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what departmental policy reviews his Department has undertaken since 6 May 2010; on what date each such review *(a)* was announced and *(b)* is expected to publish its findings; what estimate he has made of the cost of each such review; who has been appointed to lead each such review; to what remuneration each review leader is entitled; how many (i) full-time equivalent civil servants and (ii) seconded staff are working on each such review; from which organisations such staff have been seconded; and how much on average such seconded staff will be paid for their work on the review. [21873]

Chris Grayling: The following information details the major reviews announced by this Department since 6 May. The Department, however, is a large customer facing delivery organisation with over 100,000 staff spread across a wide range of geographical locations. It is not possible, other than at disproportionate cost, to identify all the reviews which the Department may have undertaken into any aspect of its very wide range of policy responsibilities in this time frame.

(i) an independent review of *how best to support the* implementation of automatic enrolment into workplace pensions was launched on 24 June and reported by the planned deadline of 30 September. The outcomes of the review were set out in "Making Auto-Enrolment Work—A review for the Department for Work and Pensions" (Cm 7954) published on 27 October. This independent review was led by Paul Johnson of Frontier Economics, supported by David Yeandle of the Engineering Employers' Federation and Adrian Boulding of Legal and General. Frontier Economics are being recompensed for Paul Johnson's contribution to the review. The other members of the review team were entitled to claim expenses. The review was supported by a core team of three civil servants and drew upon wider policy, analytical and other expertise within the Department. No staff were seconded from outside Whitehall to work on the review. The cost of these staff were met from the Department's core budget with total additional costs, including the publication of the review team's report and seminars with key stakeholders, estimated at around £95,000;

(ii) an independent review of the work capability assessment was announced on 29 June and is being led by Professor Malcolm Harrington along with a Scrutiny Group chaired by Professor David Haslam, and with three other members: Paul Farmer, Olivia Carlton and Neil Lennox. Professor Harrington's work is being supported by five civil servants. There are no secondees from outside Whitehall. All are being paid, with the exception of Neil Lennox who is carrying out the work on a pro bono basis, and all are entitled to claim expenses. The estimated cost of this review is £125,000 and it is anticipated that it will report by the end of 2010;

(iii) a review of state pension age. A Call for Evidence on when the state pension age should increase to 66 was published on 24 June and the conclusions of the review were contained in "A Sustainable State Pension: when the State Pension age will increase to 66" (Cm 7956) published on 3 November. The cost of the review is being met from the Department's core budget. The review is being led by a core team of six staff, who also have responsibilities for other state pension policy work within the Department. They draw upon wider analytical and other expertise from within the Department. No staff have been seconded from outside Whitehall to work on the review.

Disability Living Allowance: Care Homes

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to provide assistance for mobility services for disabled people who are in full-time residential care homes. [24599]

Maria Miller: Local authorities contracts with care homes will cover services to meet a resident's assessed needs. These will cover activities of daily living which may include providing access to doctors, dentists and local services such as libraries and banks. Local authorities should also take into account the resident's emotional and social needs as part of the assessment.

Funeral Payments

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many funeral payment grants have been made in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* England, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland over the last three years. [23433]

Steve Webb: Information regarding funeral payment awards for Northern Ireland is a matter for my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

The available information is in the following table.

Number of funeral payment awards by country and financial year

	Scotland	*England*	*Wales*
2007-08	5,990	31,260	2,280
2008-09	5,770	32,460	2,290
2009-10	5,560	31,220	2,240

Notes:

1. The information provided is Management Information. Our preference is to answer all parliamentary questions using Official/National Statistics but in this case we only have Management Information available. It is not quality assured to the same extent as Official/National statistics and there are some issues with the data, for example, numbers given do not include claims which were processed clerically and had not been entered on to the Social Fund Computer System by the end of the relevant financial year.

2. The number of awards includes those made after re-consideration or appeal.

3. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applications for funeral payment grants have been refused in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* England, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland over the last three years; and how many such refusals were appealed against. [23434]

Steve Webb: Information regarding funeral payment awards for Northern Ireland is a matter for my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. Information regarding funeral payment appeals is a matter for my right hon. Friend, the Justice Secretary.

The available information is in the following table.

Number of funeral payment initial refusals by country and financial year

	Scotland	*England*	*Wales*
2007-08	2,970	22,850	1,730
2008-09	2,980	26,700	1,980
2009-10	3,050	27,530	2,000

Notes:

1. The information provided is Management Information. Our preference is to answer all parliamentary questions using Official/National Statistics but in this case we only have Management Information available. It is not quality assured to the same extent as Official/National statistics and there are some issues with the data, for example, numbers given do not include claims which were processed clerically and had not been entered on to the Social Fund Computer System by the end of the relevant financial year.

2. The numbers are for initial refusals only and do not include the impact of re-considerations or appeals.

3. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average amount awarded to individuals receiving the funeral payment grant was in the latest period for which figures are available. [23435]

Steve Webb: The funeral payment average award for Great Britain for April to October 2010 was £1,209.

Notes:

1. The information provided is Management Information. Our preference is to answer all parliamentary questions using Official/National Statistics but in this case we only have Management Information available. It is not quality assured to the same extent as Official/National statistics and there are some issues with the data, for example, numbers given do not include claims which were processed clerically and had not been entered on to the Social Fund Computer System by the end of October 2010.

2. The average award includes awards made after re-consideration or appeal.

3. The amount has been rounded to the nearest £1.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many funeral payment grants have subsequently been recovered from the estate of the deceased by his Department in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the monetary value of such sums recovered was. [23437]

Steve Webb: The number of funeral payment awards on which some recovery from the estate of the deceased was made in Great Britain from April to October 2010 was 240 and the monetary value of the sums recovered was £120,000.

Notes:

1. The information provided is Management Information. Our preference is to answer all parliamentary questions using Official/National Statistics but in this case we only have Management Information available. It is not quality assured to the same extent as Official/National statistics and there are some issues with the data, for example, figures given do not include recoveries which had not been entered on to the Social Fund Computer System by the end of October 2010.

2. The figures are for funeral payment awards recovered in full or in part.

3. The number of funeral payment awards on which some recovery was made has been rounded to the nearest 10 and the monetary value of the sums recovered to the nearest £10,000.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System.

Housing Benefit

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has made a recent estimate of the number of housing benefit claimants in *(a)* England, *(b)* Birmingham and *(c)* Birmingham, Ladywood constituency who are in paid employment. [18544]

Steve Webb: The information is not available at the level of parliamentary constituency.

The most recent available estimates of non-passported housing benefit recipients in work are given in the following table for England and Birmingham:

Housing benefit recipients by employment status, England and Birmingham local authority, July 2010

Number

	Non-passported in employment	*Non-passported not in employment*	*All passported*	*All housing benefit recipients*
England	612,290	712,120	2,743,510	4,070,960
Birmingham	13,780	16,380	80,540	110,840

Notes:

1. Estimates of passported housing benefit recipients undertaking part-time work are not available.

2. People claiming housing benefit not in receipt of a passported benefit are recorded as being in employment if their local authority has recorded employment income from either the main claimant, or partner of claimant (if applicable), in calculating the housing benefit award.

3. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.

4. Passported status does not include recipients with unknown passported status.

5. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases. An extended payment is a payment that may be received for a further four weeks when they start working full time, work more hours or earn more money.

6. SHBE is a monthly electronic scan of claimant level data direct from local authority computer systems. It replaces quarterly aggregate clerical returns. The data are available monthly from November 2008 and July 2010 is the latest available.

7. Figures are at 10 July 2010.

8. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

9. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Source:

Single Housing Benefit Extract.

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has made a recent estimate of the number of households likely to be affected by the implementation of the housing benefit proposals in the comprehensive spending review in *(a)* Wansbeck constituency, *(b)* Northumberland and *(c)* the UK. [22922]

Steve Webb: We will publish a document on the impacts of the proposed changes to the shared room rate in due course. This will include information at the local authority level.

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the merits of direct payment of housing benefit to private landlords. [23332]

Steve Webb: We are conducting a review of the first two years' operation of the local housing allowance to monitor its impact at a national level. The review aims to cover a range of issues that are likely to be of interest to landlords, including direct payment to tenants and the operation of the safeguards for tenants who are unable or unlikely to manage their rental payments. An in-depth focus group study of landlords concerning their attitudes to, and experiences of, the local housing allowance scheme will be included. The review is due to report in the later in the year.

Housing Benefit: Brighton

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in Brighton, Kemptown constituency are in receipt of housing benefit; what the equivalent figure was in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [19092]

Steve Webb: The information is not available.

At present geographic breakdowns are only available for local authorities and regions. However, an exercise is being undertaken to add other geographical areas to the data: this will include parliamentary constituencies housing benefit caseload and average weekly amounts at local authority area level are published on the Department's website at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/hbctb.asp

Housing Benefit: East Sussex

Amber Rudd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in *(a)* East Sussex and *(b)* Hastings and Rye constituency were in receipt of housing benefit of more than £400 a week in the latest period for which figures are available. [18426]

Steve Webb: At July 2010, for housing benefit claims in the private rented sector, our records show that there are no households in the area covered by East Sussex county council receiving over £400 per week.

Source:

Single Housing Benefit Extract for July 2010.

Housing Benefit: Rents

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what modelling his Department has undertaken in respect of the likely effects on the housing benefit budget of proposed increases in social rents. [20466]

Steve Webb: The Department for Communities and Local Government have undertaken the work on affordable rents and will be publishing more information on this measure shortly. Estimates of impacts are not yet included in the forecasts made by the Department for Work and Pensions.

Institute for Fiscal Studies: Public Expenditure

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on services provided by the Institute for Fiscal Studies in the last 24 months. [20469]

Chris Grayling: During the 24-month period between 1 October 2008 and 30 September 2010, the Department for Work and Pensions spent a total of £409,307 on services provided by The Institute of Fiscal Studies.

Of the £35,235 spent since May 1 2010, £29,990 was for analysis of the Wealth and Assets Survey and was committed to prior to the general election, £5,125 was paid to the IFS to validate the annual poverty statistics (this is a long standing commitment which uses the vast amount of expertise the IFS has in analysing these datasets) and £120 was for miscellaneous costs.

Jobcentres: Compensation

Simon Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many compensation payments were made for errors by job centres in *(a)* Norwich, *(b)* England and *(c)* each of the smallest geographical areas for which figures are available in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the monetary value of such payments was in each case. [20501]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is the responsibility of the chief executive, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh, dated November 2010:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many compensation payments were made for errors by job centres in (a) Norwich, (b) England and (c) each of the smallest geographical areas for which figures are available in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the monetary value of such payments was in each case. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Compensation payments are made through our Special Payments scheme. There are six categories that Special Payments fall under, they are; loss of statutory entitlement, compensation for delay, actual financial loss, gross inconvenience, gross embarrassment and severe distress. An explanation of these categories is provided in Annex 1.

The Special Payments scheme is administered at a regional level, although certain Special Payments can be awarded locally. Special Payments made regionally and locally for Norwich are shown in Annex 1. Special Payments made regionally are shown for each region in Annex 2, which includes the overall figure for England. Locally awarded Special Payment data for each region and for England as a whole could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

The information has been placed in the Library.

I hope this information is helpful.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the proportion of people claiming jobseeker's allowance who do not have access to a car. [23320]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking the proportion of people claiming jobseeker's allowance who do not have access to a car. (23320).

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles the number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system. This system does not hold information on the number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance who do not have access to a car.

The Annual Population Survey (APS) collects information on the number of people who report obtaining JSA who have problems with transport which would stop them from taking a job and their reasons. In the 12 month period January 2009 to December 2009 the proportion of people who reported claiming JSA that had transport problems because they did not have personal transport (Car, motorcycle etc) was 5%.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what account his proposed restriction on the payment of jobseekers' allowance will take of the number of job vacancies at local level. [23507]

Chris Grayling: Our White Paper, 'Universal Credit: welfare that works' sets out our plans for fundamental welfare reform. We shall introduce a 'claimant commitment' to clearly set out what is expected of an individual. This approach will be introduced in existing benefits and Universal Credit.

In placing reasonable requirements on claimants, Jobcentre Plus advisers will take into account local labour market conditions and sanctions will only follow where a claimant has failed to meet those reasonable requirements.

There are around 450,000 unfilled vacancies in the economy at any one time, but this snapshot hides huge dynamism. In the last three months over one million new vacancies have been reported to Jobcentre Plus alone, which is over 10,000 every working day.

With new jobs coming up all the time, most people can leave unemployment quickly. Over 50% of new JSA claimants leave within three months and around three quarters leave within six months.

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of jobseeker's allowance claimants who have received benefit sanctions have also received hardship payments in the last 12 months. [24370]

Chris Grayling: The Department does not hold reliable data on the number of JSA claimants who have been sanctioned and also claimed hardship payments. Therefore the information requested is not available.

Private Rented Housing

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the level of *(a)* median private rented sector rents and *(b)* local reference rents in 2020. [23031]

Steve Webb: The Department is currently considering the detailed policy design of the 2013 housing benefit measures announced in the June 2010 Budget in preparation for introduction of the Welfare Reform Bill early in 2011. As part of this policy design, the Department will consider how to treat pre-local housing allowance cases in future. However, there is no intention at all that local reference rents will be used in the assessment of housing benefit by 2020, and the Department will therefore not carry out a comparison with median private rented sector rents for that time period.

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the proportion of private rented sector housing that will be available to housing benefit recipients in 2020. [23032]

Steve Webb: The Department is currently considering the detailed policy design of the 2013 housing benefit measures announced in the June 2010 Budget in preparation for introduction of the Welfare Reform Bill early in 2011. This will include provision to update local housing allowance rates according to the Consumer Price Index. This legislation will include provision for future governments to assess, and if necessary adjust, the level of rates.

Social Rented Housing

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of individuals in households in which at least one member works for at least 16 hours per week who will *(a)* have their income reduced and *(b)* fall below the equivalised poverty line of 60% of median household income as a result of his proposals for the rent to be charged to new tenants by social landlords; and what the average amount is by which the income of affected households will be reduced as a result of that measure. [21913]

Steve Webb: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to her by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the 4 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 942W.

State Retirement Pensions

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to maintain the level of pension payments made to people who currently receive payments of over £140 per week after the implementation of his Department's proposed £140 per week limit on such payments. [24320]

Steve Webb: The Government are currently considering a number of options for simplifying the state pension system but final decisions have not yet been made. Proposals would only affect pensioners who reach state pension age on or after any changes are introduced. Current state pension entitlement will not be affected by this reform.

Vacancies

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what criteria are used to determine which companies can advertise through Jobcentre Plus; and whether payment is made by private companies when listing job vacancies through Jobcentre Plus. [24600]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has asked me to reply to your question asking what criteria are used to determine which companies can advertise through Jobcentre Plus; and whether payment is made by private companies when listing job vacancies through Jobcentre Plus. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus provides a free public employment service to assist people seeking employment and employers seeking employees. As part of this, we advertise all vacancies, providing they comply with civil and criminal law with the exception of some vacancies in the adult entertainment industry.

In terms of your specific question, no criteria are used to determine companies that may use our services, but we always require the following information before advertising any vacancies:

A full postal address;

A landline telephone number:

Contact name, position with the company and direct telephone number;

The type of business they are involved in;

The number of employees they have at the individual site; and

A verbal/written assurance that the job meets minimum wage requirements.

Over and above this we have a robust complaints process and fully investigate all complaints from employees and jobseekers and in a small number of cases Jobcentre Plus will refuse to advertise vacancies from companies where these complaints are upheld.

Our vacancies services are free of charge. The Employment and Training Act 1973 places a statutory duty on the Secretary of State to provide services to help employers seeking employees and expressly prevents charging.

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department has made a recent estimate of the profit made by employment agencies in respect of the advertisement of vacancies through Jobcentre Plus on behalf of privately owned companies. [24601]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking whether a recent estimate has been made by the Department of Work and Pensions of the profit made by employment agencies advertising vacancies through Jobcentre Plus on behalf of private companies.

We have never attempted to make estimates of profits made by employment agencies from their work with Jobcentre Plus. To do so would not be of particular value to us and would be unlikely to be accurate unless we made requests to individual agencies for information about profits derived from particular activities. And seeking such information might undermine working relationships that are currently of real benefit to many of our customers.

We recommend to customers that they register with appropriate agencies and search for vacancies on the Internet.

I hope this information is helpful.

Welfare State: Reform

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he plans to take to ensure that ill and disabled people are not adversely affected by the implementation of his proposed welfare reforms. [21709]

Maria Miller: The coalition Government are determined to reform the benefit system to make it simpler, fairer, more affordable and better able to tackle poverty and welfare dependency. To achieve this we will introduce an integrated working age universal credit.

Universal credit will ensure that all amounts of work will be more financially rewarding than inactivity and the improved incomes that flow from it will have beneficial effects for people's health and well-being. Detailed plans are set out in the White Paper 'Universal Credit: welfare that works', published on 11 November. We are also publishing an impact assessment of the changes, including an equality impact assessment. Further detail on the impacts of this and other measures will be provided with the Welfare Reform Bill.

In addition we continually review the best way to support disabled people to enter and remain in employment. We want to break down barriers that make it more difficult for disabled people to find work, access goods and services or participate fully in community life; and we want the benefit system to provide robust and credible support to those who face the greatest barriers and cost.

Winter Fuel Payments

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of winter fuel payments in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; and what estimate he has made of the proportion of that cost attributable to those (i) under the age of 65, (ii) between 65 and 70, (iii) between 70 and 75 and (iv) over the age of 75. [23304]

Steve Webb: Winter fuel payment expenditure for 2010-11 and 2011-12 is estimated to be £2.7 billion and £2.1 billion respectively.

The proportion of expenditure estimated to be in each of the age categories supplied is:

	2010-11	*2011-12*
Under 65	0.22	0.21
65-69	0.18	0.20
70-74	0.15	0.16
75 and over	0.44	0.44

Notes:
1. Expenditure figures are rounded to the nearest £100 million and proportions are rounded to the nearest 0.01.
2. Winter fuel payment rates for 2010-11 will be £400 for households with someone aged 80 and over and £250 for households with someone who has reached women's state pension age. This includes a temporary increase of £100 and £50 respectively. Rates for 2011-12 have been assumed to be £300 and £200 respectively.
3. Tables containing benefit expenditure by benefit, local authority and parliamentary constituency can be found at the following URL:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/index.php?page=expenditure

Source:
DWP June 2010 Budget forecasts

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments: Primates

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 4 November 2010, Official Report, column 876W, if she will introduce a requirement to record whether primates imported into the UK for research are F1 or F2+ generation. [23899]

Lynne Featherstone: Our current requirements on records for non-human primates imported into the United Kingdom for scientific research are under review and I expect to receive advice and recommendations in due course. I will write advising of any change in current policy once a decision has been made.

Animal Welfare: Public Expenditure

Mr Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effects of the outcomes of the comprehensive spending review on *(a)* her Department's funding of the National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research and *(b)* the official scrutiny of laboratories licensed to use animals for research purposes. [24086]

Lynne Featherstone: I am not yet in a position to assess the effects of the outcomes of the comprehensive spending review on Home Office funding of the National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research and the official scrutiny of laboratories licensed to use animals for research purposes.

My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary will make decisions on the delivery of budgets as part of the departmental business plan. No decisions have yet been taken over staffing.

Asylum: Finance

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Section 4 payment cards are in use by people in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* England, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland. [23479]

Damian Green: There are currently 358 Azure payment cards in use in Scotland, 3,452 in England, 300 in Wales and 27 in Northern Ireland.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which retailers participate in the Section 4 payment card scheme, and what plans the UK Border Agency has to extend the *(a)* number and *(b)* range of participating retailers. [23480]

Damian Green: The Section 4 payment card can be used at over 8,800 retail outlets throughout the UK. The Azure payment card is accepted at all Tesco, Asda, Sainsburys, Morrisons and Co-op Group supermarkets and local shops. The card can also be used at Boots and Peacocks clothing stores. Mothercare will shortly be joining the scheme and Sodexo is in discussions with low cost supermarkets Lidl and Aldi to reconsider their decision not to join the scheme.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much in unspent credit has been recovered from Section 4 payment cards in each month since the scheme was introduced. [23482]

Damian Green: The estimated amount of unspent credit recovered from the Section 4 payment card for the first year of its operation is £650,000. The figure is not collated monthly.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the operating costs for the Section 4 payment card scheme were in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [23483]

Damian Green: The Section 4 payment card scheme is cost neutral, costs being covered by commission from retailers and improved efficiency in UK Border Agency processes.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department at what rate calls to the automated balance check telephone line for users of the Section 4 payment card are charged. [23484]

Damian Green: The automated balance check telephone line for users of the Section 4 payment card is a free phone facility. There is no cost to the caller from BT landlines and other landlines provided by other telephone operators. Costs for calls made from mobiles may vary subject to the charges of the specific mobile operator.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether there is a multilingual option for users of the Section 4 payment card using the automated balance check telephone line. [23485]

Damian Green: There is no multilingual option for users of the Section 4 payment card using the automated balance checking telephone operators. The facility is accessed on average 12,000 times per week with an average call time of 37 seconds.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the UK Border Agency operates a helpline for participating retailers on the operation of the Section 4 payment card. [23486]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency does not operate a helpline facility for participating retailers on the operation of the Section 4 payment card. Each affiliate retailer manages their staff training with assistance from Sodexo.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what emergency facilities are available for users of the Section 4 payment card whose weekly resources have been exceeded. [23487]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency does not provide any emergency facilities for users of the Section 4 payment card whose weekly resources have been exceeded. The current rate of £39.39 per person, per week is considered to be sufficient to meet the essential living needs of the supported persons.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will consider the merits of increasing the weekly carry-over limit for the Section 4 payment card. [23488]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency currently has no plans to review the £5 carry-over limit for supported singles. The £5 carry-over limit does not currently apply to families with children under the age of 18 or expectant mothers.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether retailers are able to credit a Section 4 payment card where a user has returned a purchased item. [23489]

Damian Green: There is no provision for retailers to immediately credit a Section 4 payment card where a user has returned a purchased item. Credits appear on the supported persons Section 4 payment card account within 48-hours from the return of the item.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will assess the merits of extending the Section 4 payment card scheme to include charity shops. [23490]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency has held discussions with the Association of Charity Shops who canvassed their members on viability of extending the Section 4 payment scheme to include charity shops. The members did not ask to be included in the Section 4 payment card scheme. However, the UK Border Agency is currently in talks with the Red Cross who have indicated an interest in the scheme.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Section 4 payment cards have been reported *(a)* lost or stolen or *(b)* used without authorisation in each month since the introduction of the scheme. [23491]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency does not centrally record the numbers of Section 4 payment cards that have been lost or stolen. The UK Border Agency only tracks replacements, irrespective of the reason for the replacement.

Cards can be cancelled immediately in the case of loss or theft.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what changes were made to the Section 4 payment card scheme as a consequence of its trial in Scotland. [23492]

Damian Green: The Section 4 payment card scheme was not trialled in Scotland. Scotland was the first region in which the Section 4 payment card scheme was implemented. Therefore, no changes were made to the scheme following the first stage of the roll out in Scotland.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what budget advice is provided to individuals using Section 4 payment cards; in what language this advice is available; and if she will place in the Library a copy of such guidance. [23493]

Damian Green: Each Section 4 payment card is distributed by the accommodation providers on behalf of the UK Border Agency. The accompanying information is in English and does not contain any budget advice.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the UK Border Agency has received reports of restrictions which retailers have placed on the purchase of certain items by users of Section 4 payment cards. [23494]

Damian Green: Restrictions on the type of items that can be purchased with the Section 4 payment card are set by the UK Border Agency not the contracted retailers.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward proposals to allow the withdrawal of limited cash sums using the Section 4 payment card to enable payment for items or services not accessible through participating retailers. [23731]

Damian Green: There are currently no plans to allow the withdrawal of cash sums using the Section 4 payment card to enable payment for items or services not accessible through participating retailers.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if the UK Border Agency will bring forward proposals to allow users of the Section 4 payment card to check card balances *(a)* online and *(b)* in-store at participating retailers. [23732]

Damian Green: There are currently no plans to allow users of the Section 4 payment card to check card balances either online or in-store at participating retailers. A free phone automatic balance checking facility is available to enable service users to manage their weekly support.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward proposals to enable individuals using Section 4 payment cards to use *(a)* supermarket loyalty cards and *(b)* discount coupons when making purchases. [23733]

Damian Green: The ability of individuals to use Section 4 payment cards in conjunction with supermarket loyalty cards and discount coupons is a matter for the participating retailers.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what reports she has received of adverse effects on asylum seekers of the operation of the Section 4 payment card system. [23734]

Damian Green: The Asylum Support Partnership has produced a report entitled 'Your inflexible friend: the cost of living without cash' dated October 2010. Although this report only sampled 1% of those who use Azure cards and the vast majority responded positively, it raises a number of points regarding the operation of the Section 4 payment card for failed asylum seekers. The Government are committed to ongoing monitoring of the operation of the system, including through dialogue with voluntary sector partners, but it does not accept that the results from the survey are indicative of the experience of the majority of users.

In October 2008, the Refugee Council produced a report entitled 'More Token Gestures: A report into the use of vouchers for asylum seekers claiming Section 4 support' dated October 2008.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* UK Border Agency officials will arrange to meet representatives of the Asylum Support Partnership to discuss the operation of Section 4 payment cards. [23735]

Damian Green: There are no plans for Ministers to meet with representatives of the Asylum Support Partnership to discuss the operation of Section 4 payment cards. However, members of the Asylum Support Partnership regularly attend working level meetings with UK Border Agency officials at which Section 4 payment cards and other issues are discussed.

Asylum: Glasgow

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the decision to terminate the UK Border Agency housing contract with Glasgow City Council was taken; for what reasons the contract was terminated; whether the UK Border Agency is liable for payments to Glasgow City Council as a result of the early termination of the contract; with what providers the UK Border Agency intends to rehouse asylum seekers following the termination of the contract; what type of accommodation will be provided; and what discussions the UK Border Agency had with Glasgow City Council on the housing contract before termination occurred. [23917]

Damian Green: A contract review allowed the UK Border Agency (UKBA) and Glasgow city council to review the terms of the contract. Discussions were held over a period of months but the two parties were unable to reach agreement on the costs of housing asylum seekers despite the UKBA offering an increase on what are, already, the highest accommodation charges in the UK outside London. I agreed with the final decision to terminate the contract with Glasgow city council just prior to the termination letter being issued on 5 November 2010.

Asylum seekers currently accommodated by Glasgow city council will be transferred to either Glasgow YMCA or to the Angel Group and will be provided with suitable housing to the equivalent standards as that supplied by Glasgow city council. We are hopeful that in many cases they will be able to remain in the same accommodation. The agency will be liable for early termination costs which have not yet been determined. These costs will be significantly lower than the savings that will now be realised by moving service users to alternative providers already operating in Glasgow.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what daily rate the UK Border Agency paid for asylum seeker accommodation with Glasgow city council. [23928]

Damian Green: This information is commercially sensitive and the disclosure of such rates would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of both the Home Office and those companies and local authorities with whom the Home Office enters into contracts but they are the highest in the UK outside London.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what daily rate the UK Border Agency will pay for asylum seeker accommodation with replacement providers following the Agency's decision to terminate its housing contract with Glasgow city council. [23929]

Damian Green: This information is commercially sensitive and the disclosure of such rates would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of both the Home Office and those companies and local authorities with whom the Home Office enters into contracts.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment the UK Border Agency has made of the costs incurred by asylum seekers in moving accommodation following the Agency's decision to terminate its housing contract with Glasgow city council. [23930]

Damian Green: The incoming accommodation providers will manage and pay the costs associated with moving asylum seekers to alternative accommodation.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* individuals and *(b)* families the UK Border Agency is housing in accommodation managed by Glasgow city council. [23932]

Damian Green: As of 8 November 2010 Glasgow city council were supporting 274 individuals and 334 families, a combined total of 1,271 individuals.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the timescale is for moving to alternative accommodation asylum seekers housed with Glasgow city council. [23933]

Damian Green: The contract with Glasgow city council will terminate on 3 February and we will transfer those affected to an alternative provider by this date. This may not require a physical move given that one of the other accommodation providers in Glasgow also uses Glasgow Housing Association as a provider of accommodation.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assistance the UK Border Agency plans to provide for asylum seekers with removal costs following the Agency's decision to terminate its housing contract with Glasgow city council. [23934]

Damian Green: Removal costs will be the responsibility of the incoming provider and not for the affected asylum seekers.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions the UK Border Agency had with *(a)* UK Ministers, *(b)* the Scottish Executive and *(c)* the Scottish Refugee Council prior to the Agency's decision to terminate its housing contract with Glasgow city council. [23936]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency advised Home Office Ministers of the intention to terminate the contract and also informed officials at the Scottish Government and the Scottish Refugee Council of the likelihood of termination and of the final decision to terminate the contract prior to the formal termination letter being issued on 5 November 2010.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any asylum seekers being re-housed from accommodation with Glasgow city council will be moved to accommodation outside *(a)* Glasgow city and *(b)* Scotland. [23937]

Damian Green: There are no plans to move asylum seekers currently supported by Glasgow city council either outside of Glasgow or Scotland.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what advice has been issued by the UK Border Agency to asylum seeker tenants of Glasgow city council regarding their re-housing. [23939]

Damian Green: A letter has been issued to all service users currently accommodated by Glasgow city council in Glasgow Housing Association properties advising them of the possibility that they may be moved to alternative accommodation and offering details of support available to them if they have any queries. Further communication is planned to keep the service users advised of future developments.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the UK Border Agency will be contracting with any organisations to assist tenants moving from Glasgow city council accommodation. [23940]

Damian Green: The responsibility for providing support and accommodation to service users moving from Glasgow city council rests with the incoming accommodation provider. The incoming accommodation provider will be one of our two remaining regional accommodation providers. The Scottish Refugee Council will be in a position to provide additional advice if required.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what dates since 11 May 2010 she met *(a)* the Prime Minister, *(b)* the Chancellor of the Exchequer and *(c)* the Chief Secretary to the Treasury to discuss the comprehensive spending review settlement for her Department. [22837]

Mrs May *[holding answer 9 November 2010]:* I had a number of conversations, meetings and telephone calls with the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Chief Secretary to the Treasury during the spending review.

Detention Centres: Children

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children were held in detention awaiting deportation on the most recent date for which figures are available. [24095]

Damian Green: National Statistics on children detained solely under Immigration Act powers are published quarterly in the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom. The Statistical Summary for the second quarter of 2010, the most recent available, coupled with local management information, indicates that just one child was detained with its family awaiting removal as at 30 June 2010.

This figure is based on management information and is not subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics. It is provisional and may be subject to change.

Information on people detained solely under Immigration Act powers as at 30 September will be available on 25 November in the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom, July-September 2010 on the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children have been detained in each type of accommodation in each location in each of the last five years. [24096]

Damian Green: The information requested is not recorded centrally and could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

National Statistics on children detained solely under Immigration Act powers are published quarterly in the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom. Information on people detained solely under Immigration Act powers as at 30 September will be available on 25 November in the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom, July-September 2010 on the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

The Government have made clear their commitment to end the detention of children and continues to work with its corporate partners to find an alternative that protects the welfare of children, without undermining UK immigration laws.

Domestic Violence: Arrests

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of *(a)* arrests and *(b)* convictions for domestic violence offences in Dartford constituency in each of the last five years. [24147]

Lynne Featherstone: The available data are provided in the following table which shows the number of arrests and convictions for domestic violence offences in Kent between 2005-06 and 2009-10.

Number of arrests and convictions for domestic violence offences in Kent between 2005-06 and 2009-10

	Number of domestic violence incidents where an arrest was made relating to the incident	*Number of convictions of domestic violence offences*[3]
2005-06[1]	4,517	195
2006-07[1]	6,016	797
2007-08	6,696	1,072
2008-09	7,058	1,152
2009-10[2]	—	1,078

[1] For 2005-06 and 2006-07 the number of convictions of domestic violence offences only includes incidents involving adult offenders and adult victims as data were not collected on incidents involving young victims or young offenders.
[2] Data were not collected from forces in 2009-10 on the number of domestic violence incidents where an arrest was made relating to the incident.
[3] Convictions data are provided by the Crown Prosecution Service.

Immigration Controls: Northern Ireland

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment her Department has made of the effects of implementation of the proposed immigration cap on the academic and research community in Northern Ireland. [23925]

Damian Green: We have made it clear that we want to continue attracting the brightest and the best to the UK. As part of this commitment, the Secretary of State for the Home Department launched a consultation over the summer to ensure that we gathered a wide range of views and evidence, before announcing our plans for the first full annual limit. The consultation is now closed and we have received a high volume of responses which are being carefully assessed. The Government will announce their decisions in due course.

Police Custody: Illegal Immigrants

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 2 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 700-1W, on police custody: illegal immigrants, what records she holds on the action taken in those cases where *(a)* UK Border Agency officers did not attend a police station and *(b)* such an officer attended and the individual was not arrested. [23666]

Damian Green: The example given in the previous answer of 2 November 2010 related to police inquiries to the UK Border Agency's London and south-east region about possible clandestine entry to the UK in vehicles (known within UK Border Agency as "lorry drops").

Of the 286 "lorry drop" requests from the police within this region for the period April to September 2010, 253 were attended by UK Border Agency staff. Of the 33 that were not, 10 were dealt with by serving illegal entry papers by fax. The remaining 23 were not attended for various reasons including insufficient resources. There were 232 arrests in total during this period. The UK Border Agency took no further action against 22 individuals because an immigration offence was not identified.

Please note, this information is taken from management information tools; it has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols and should be treated as provisional.

Police: Finance

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to publish the funding allocations for each police authority for *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14 and *(d)* 2014-15. [22838]

Mrs May *[holding answer 9 November 2010]:* As my right hon. Friend the Minister for Policing and Criminal Justice told the House on 1 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 600, we intend to place provisional Home Office Police Grant funding allocations for 2011-12 and indicative funding allocations for 2012-13 to 2014-15 for all police authorities before the House of Commons in early December.

Police: Manpower

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will estimate the number of officers in each police force area with 30 years' service or more. [23024]

Mrs May *[holding answer 9 November 2010]:* The available data are provided in the following table which shows the number of police officers in each police force area with 30 years service or more, as at 31 March 2010.

Number of police officers in each police force area with 30 years service or more, as at 31 March 2010[1]

	Number of years						
	30 to 31	*31 to 32*	*32 to 33*	*33 to 34*	*34 to 35*	*Over 35*	*Total*
Avon and Somerset	27	12	0	0	4	4	47
Bedfordshire	11	4	6	3	0	2	26
British Transport Police	38	54	32	28	37	55	244
Cambridgeshire	11	1	1	0	2	1	16
Cheshire	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
Cleveland	21	14	6	8	7	4	60
Cumbria	8	3	1	4	0	1	17
Derbyshire	23	17	9	3	7	8	67
Devon and Cornwall	19	14	7	1	9	2	52
Dorset	12	3	2	3	0	0	20
Durham	12	11	4	2	4	3	36
Dyfed-Powys	14	3	4	2	1	0	24
Essex	41	17	10	2	3	6	79
Gloucestershire	2	4	1	1	0	3	11
Greater Manchester	45	2	4	4	5	4	64
Gwent	7	6	0	0	1	1	15
Hampshire	34	8	7	5	4	14	72
Hertfordshire	10	9	9	4	2	6	40
Humberside	15	2	5	3	1	0	26
Kent	30	12	16	10	5	5	78
Lancashire	22	6	7	8	4	3	50
Leicestershire	9	7	6	4	5	3	34
Lincolnshire	6	1	3	4	0	2	16
London, City of	10	4	7	5	2	3	31
Merseyside	49	18	14	23	8	10	122
Metropolitan Police	423	213	135	153	87	143	1,154
Norfolk	2	1	1	2	1	0	7
Northamptonshire	7	3	2	3	0	2	17
Northumbria	12	6	8	6	1	1	34
North Wales	7	12	2	0	0	0	21
North Yorkshire	10	0	1	0	1	0	12
Nottinghamshire	19	12	5	5	5	11	57
South Wales	30	10	6	2	3	2	53
South Yorkshire	13	1	0	3	1	2	20
Staffordshire	22	2	5	3	4	4	40
Suffolk	5	3	2	3	0	0	13
Surrey	23	3	6	1	0	2	35
Sussex	17	7	6	7	1	3	41
Thames Valley	29	5	6	11	6	7	64
Warwickshire	6	2	1	0	0	2	11
West Mercia	32	18	7	9	8	7	81
West Midlands	85	33	30	16	17	17	198
West Yorkshire	52	29	11	14	10	10	126
Wiltshire	14	9	1	2	1	2	29
Total	1,284	601	396	367	257	355	3,260

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items

[2] Cheshire is unable to provide length of service figures

UK Border Agency: Northern Ireland

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time staff were employed by the UK Border Agency in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years. [24107]

Damian Green: The available figures are set out in the following table:

UK Border Agency staff[1] *in Northern Ireland*

As at 31 March	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*All*
2007	26	1.4	27.4
2008	41	2.7	43.7
2009	39	3.7	42.7
2010	52	2.02	54.02

[1] Full-time equivalent civil servants, excluding agency workers. Staff figures published after July 2010 include those on paid maternity leave, these are excluded from the above.

Visas: Taiwan

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department plans to assess the merits of extending visa-free access to the UK for visitors from Taiwan. [24002]

Damian Green: The UK lifted its visa regime on visitors from Taiwan on 18 May 2009 as part of a global review of visitor visa regimes.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the name is of each location in Afghanistan from which Tornados are capable of operating; and how many of these have only a single runway suitable for operating Tornados. [23695]

Nick Harvey: I am withholding the information as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the ability of Harriers to operate in Afghanistan from runways which have been rendered partially unusable. [23696]

Nick Harvey: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my noble Friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Lord Astor of Hever) to the noble Lord (Lord West of Spithead) in another place on 11 November 2010, *Official Report, House of Lords*, columns WA106.

Air Force: Military Bases

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) for how many hours *(a)* RAF Wainfleet, *(b)* RAF Donna Nook, *(c)* RAF Holbeach, *(d)* RAF West Freugh, *(e)* RAF Tain and *(f)* the Cape Wrath Range were in use for training operations for each aircraft type in the latest period for which figures are available; [22948]

(2) how many passes took place at *(a)* RAF Wainfleet, *(b)* RAF Donna Nook, *(c)* RAF Holbeach, *(d)* RAF West Freugh, *(e)* RAF Tain and *(f)* the Cape Wrath Range for each type of (i) RAF aircraft and (ii) non-RAF aircraft in each year since 2004; and from which airbase the flights originated. [22949]

Nick Harvey: The number of passes that have taken place at DTE Donna Nook, DTE Holbeach, DTE Tain and DTE Cape Wrath for each aircraft type since 2004 and the air base from which the flights originated are contained in the following tables:

DTE Donna Nook

Station	*Aircraft*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*Number* *2010*[1]
RAF Coningsby	Typhoon	—	—	—	117	—	—	35
RAF Coningsby	Jaguar	—	—	1,708	834	—	—	—
RAF Coningsby	Tornado F3	84	157	—	—	—	—	—
RAF Coningsby	Tornado GR4	—	—	—	—	—	—	442
RAF Coningsby	Tornado F3, Tornado GR4, Harrier GR9 (41(R) Sqn)	—	—	266	1,163	1,473	1,066	—
RAF Coltishall	Jaguar	4,915	3,473	558	—	—	—	—
RAF Marham	Tornado GR4	3,959	3,513	2,698	1,696	1,759	1,473	1,452
RAF Cottesmore and RAF Wittering	Harrier GR9	1,061	1,142	977	412	232	270	321
Unknown	Harrier GR9	—	75	—	—	—	—	—
RAF Leuchars	Tornado F3	83	114	198	270	—	—	—
RAF Lossiemouth	Tornado GR4	121	61	185	96	15	84	161
RAF Valley	Hawk	24	54	—	—	3	43	6
RAF Benson	Merlin	9	397	227	185	274	323	405
RAF Odiham	Chinook	169	336	592	156	237	404	275
Unknown	A-10	—	—	—	980	—	—	—
RAF Lakenheath	Blackhawk	—	—	34	46	—	20	40
RAF Lakenheath	F-15	3,150	2,997	2,886	2,512	1,904	2,508	1,379
Air Warfare Centre	Trials on all aircraft types in current use with British forces	226	632	1,920	3,597	4,539	3,309	1,495
Dishforth	Apache	—	—	—	—	—	6	—
RAF Leeming	Tornado F3	310	21	257	182	—	—	—
RAF Leeming	Hawk	—	—	—	—	60	120	66
BAE	Hawk	289	124	219	329	159	268	121
Joint Forward Air Control Training and Standard Unit (JFACTSU)	Various aircraft types	—	—	—	—	—	—	823
RAF Cranwell	King Air	—	—	—	—	7	7	6
Exercise	Various aircraft types	—	—	151	—	—	—	—
Exercise	Various aircraft types	—	—	—	25	—	—	—
Exercise	Various aircraft types	—	—	—	—	—	—	868
Exercise	Unknown	—	642	—	—	—	—	—
RAF Shawbury	Griffin	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Visit	Unknown	—	61	—	—	—	—	—

DTE Donna Nook

Station	*Aircraft*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*Number* *2010*[1]
RAF Linton-on-Ouse	Unknown	—	20	—	—	—	—	—
Boscombe Down	Unknown	23	—	29	—	35	—	—
Army Air Corps	Lynx	—	—	—	24	46	—	—
RAF Lyneham	C-130	—	1	1	4	—	—	50
Total		14,423	13,820	12,906	12,628	10,743	9,901	7,949

[1] To 31 October.

DTE Tain

Station	*Aircraft*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*Number* *2010*[1]
RAF Marham and RAF Lossiemouth	Tornado GR4	20,298	20,999	19,653	15,784	13,158	16,940	12,904
RAF Coltishall	Jaguar	247	102	38	4	—	—	—
RAF Cottesmore and RAF Wittering	Harrier GR9	254	59	39	145	16	56	72
Unknown	Hawk	—	40	13	46	9	6	64
RAF Benson	Merlin	—	—	—	—	16	—	—
RAF Benson	Puma	—	—	—	—	—	—	75
RAF Coningsby	Typhoon	—	—	—	114	16	14	—
RAF Odiham	Chinook	22	—	18	241	182	—	8
RAF Lakenheath	MH-53	259	—	—	—	—	—	—
RAF Lakenheath	Blackhawk	—	—	—	—	—	211	—
RAF Lakenheath	F-15	204	153	249	211	135	340	28
Unknown	C-130	4	10	15	6	6	3	—
Royal Navy	Sea Harrier	345	9	—	—	55	—	—
Army Air Corps	Lynx	49	—	—	—	—	252	—
US Navy	F/A-18	199	—	68	—	—	—	—
US Navy	F-14	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Swedish Air Force	Gripen	—	85	—	—	—	—	48
Army Air Corps	AH-64D	—	—	33	—	—	—	—
French Air Force	Mirage and Rafale	—	—	2	—	139	102	—
Royal Saudi Air Force	Unknown	—	—	—	26	—	—	—
Lyneham Flying Club	B28	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
Belgian Air Force	F-16	—	—	—	—	—	—	16
Total		21,887	21,457	20,128	16,577	13,735	17,924	13,215

[1] To 31 October.

DTE Holbeach

Station	*Type*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*[1]	*Number* *2010*[2]
RAF Coningsby	Typhoon	—	—	—	—	—	—	283
RAF Coningsby	Typhoon, Tornado (F3), Tornado (GR4), Harrier (GR9) (41(R) Sqn)	—	—	—	—	1,148	179	—
RAF Coningsby	Jaguar, Tornado (F3), Tornado (GR4), Harrier (GR9) (41(R) Sqn)	88	606	1,496	1,428	—	—	—
RAF Coltishall	Jaguar	7,002	4,408	712	—	—	—	—
RAF Marham	Tornado (GR4)	2,870	4,324	3,229	2,442	2,935	1,874	—
RAF Cottesmore and RAF Wittering	Harrier (GR9)	10,084	8,806	7,454	5,371	7,383	3,647	3,809
RAF Lossiemouth	Tornado (GR4)	122	70	67	83	9	—	—
RAF Marham and RAF Lossiemouth	Tornado (GR4)	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,342
RAF Benson	Puma	97	127	111	—	—	—	202
	Merlin	—	—	—	—	—	—	83
	Puma/Merlin	—	—	—	165	62	135	—
RAF Odiham	Chinook	243	—	37	140	115	240	90
RAF Lakenheath	HH-60 Pave Hawk	—	—	—	—	—	—	22
	F-15	2,943	4,613	2,963	3,589	1,682	1,401	1,104
RAF Leeming	Tornado (F3)	675	—	119	—	19	—	—
	Tornado Hawk	—	277	—	—	—	—	—
RAF Valley	Hawk	—	2	1	—	2	87	7
RAF Leuchars	Tornado	—	—	—	146	—	—	—

DTE Holbeach

Station	*Type*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*[1]	*Number* *2010*[2]
MOD Boscombe Down	Harrier	27	—	—	59			
	Typhoon/Tornado	—	—	—		26		
	Tornado/Harrier/Jaguar	—	—	90				
Yeovilton (RNAS)	Lynx	11	—	—	—		—	17
	Sea Harrier FA-2	30	—					
RAF Cranwell	Dominie	—	—	—		2		
BAe Warton	Tornado	10	42	9		49	22	
Aviano (USAF)	F-16	534						
Minot AFB (USAF)	B-52	16						
Dyess AFB (USAF)	B-1	12		18				
Belgian Air Force	F-16	—		54				
Twenthe, Royal Netherlands Air Force (RNLAF)	F-16	—		19				
Leeuwarden (RNLAF)	F-16	77	64					
Wattisham	Lynx/Apache	—	—	125	331		65	—
	Apache	—	—			58		26
	Lynx	92	106					44
RAF Shawbury	Griffin	—	—					4
Unknown	Tutor		—					13
Total		24,933	23,445	16,504	13,754	13,490	7,650	7,046

[1] July to December only. [2] To 30 September.

DTE Cape Wrath[1]

Station	*Aircraft*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*Number* *2010*[2]
RAF Lossiemouth and RAF Marham	Tornado	508	302	419	321	189
RAF Coningsby	Typhoon	—		13	87	—
French Air Force	Mirage				24	—
RAF Cottesmore and RAF Wittering	Harrier (GR9)		40	64	68	
RAF Lakenheath	F-15	181				
Total		689	342	496	500	189

[1] Information relating to DTE Cape Wrath can be provided only from 2006. [2] To 31 October.

RAF Wainfleet closed on 3 December 2009.

Information regarding the hours that the Defence Training Estate (DTE) Donna Nook, DTE Holbeach, MOD West Freugh, DTE Tain and DTE Cape Wrath have been used for training operations for each aircraft type is not held in the format requested.

Information relating to the passes that have taken place at MOD West Freugh for aircraft since 2004 and the airbase from which the flights originated is also not held in the format requested.

Armed Forces: Conditions of Employment

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average number of years' service is for *(a)* a Royal Marine commando and *(b)* an army infantry soldier. [22793]

Mr Robathan: The average length of service of all ranks in the Royal Marines, other than commissioned, and across all trades is 11 years and two months.

The average length of service of all ranks, other than commissioned, in the Army infantry is seven years and nine months.

Armed Forces: Training

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent estimate he has made of the average cost to the public purse of training an officer cadet in *(a)* the Royal Marines, *(b)* the Army, *(c)* the RAF and *(d)* the Royal Navy for a commission as a junior officer. [22419]

Nick Harvey: The following estimates, based on approximate figures, have been made of the cost of training an officer cadet through to their commission as a junior Officer.

A junior Royal Marine Officer's training costs some £93,000. Other than local familiarisation training a graduate from Commando Training Centre Royal Marines is fully deployable.

Junior Officers in other services would be required to take on further training (Phase Two) to specialise in their chosen field, before being fully deployable. However, Phase One costs are as follows:

For a junior Royal Navy Officer Phase One training costs some £42,000.

For a junior Army Officer Phase One training costs some £54,000.

For a junior RAF Officer Phase One training costs some £49,000.

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average cost to the public purse was of training to deployable status *(a)* a Royal Marine and *(b)* an infantryman in the latest period for which figures are available. [24271]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 15 November 2010]*: The training cost for a Royal Marine from recruitment to graduation from the Commando Training Centre Royal Marines (CTCRM) is in the region of £54,000. Other than local familiarisation training, a graduate from CTCRM is fully deployable.

The training cost for an Infantry soldier from recruitment to graduation from the Infantry Training Centre is in the region of £31,000. However, a soldier is not deployable at that stage and will undertake further training to become operationally effective within their unit. These further costs are not collected centrally and will include an element of local training where the cost: is not easily identifiable, for example one to one instruction by a Non-Commissioned Officer improving tactical knowledge of a unit's operational function.

Chinook Helicopters

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons he reduced the number of Chinook helicopters on order from 22 to 12. [19555]

Peter Luff: There could be no reduction in the number of Chinook helicopters on order as none have yet been ordered.

Defence Estates: Decontamination

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department has made of the extent of contamination in parts of the defence estate under consideration for disposal; and what estimate his Department has made of the likely clean-up costs. [24311]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has not yet made an assessment of the level of contamination in parts of the defence estate under consideration for disposal. When a site is declared surplus to requirements it is normal for MOD to undertake a Land Quality Assessment (LQA), the objective being to provide sufficient information on land quality to inform decision makers and prospective purchasers and will quantify the contaminated land risks on a logical and rational basis.

The likely clean-up costs and value of land will ultimately be determined by the market, based on the available information, prevailing planning situation and its proposed use.

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department has made of the level of contamination of each airfield under consideration for closure; and what estimate his Department has made of the cost of clean-up in each case. [24312]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has not yet made an assessment of the level of contamination in each airfield under consideration for disposal. When an airfield is declared surplus to requirements it is normal for the MOD to undertake a Land Quality Assessment (LQA), the objective being to provide sufficient information on land quality to inform decision makers and prospective purchasers and will quantify the contaminated land risks on a logical and rational basis.

The likely clean-up costs and value of land will ultimately be determined by the market, based on the available information, prevailing planning situation and its proposed use.

Defence: Expenditure

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the information provided by his Department to NATO on defence expenditure for the purpose of calculating UK defence expenditure as a proportion of gross domestic product will include spending on the *(a)* Stabilisation Fund, *(b)* Conflict Prevention Fund, *(c)* Discretionary Peacekeeping Fund and *(d)* Single Intelligence Account. [23838]

Mr Gerald Howarth *[holding answer 12 November 2010]*: None of the funds in question were included in the estimate that future UK Defence spending will continue to meet the NATO target.

Devonport Dockyard

Sheryll Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for Devonport as the home of the amphibious fleet. [23193]

Mr Robathan: On current plans, Her Majesty's Naval Base Devonport will remain the main operating base of the amphibious fleet.

Human Rights

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he made of the cost to his Department and its non-departmental public bodies of compliance with *(a)* domestic, *(b)* European and *(c)* other international human rights requirements in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [18724]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) does not collate information on the costs of compliance with human rights requirements and such information could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The MOD takes account of the domestic and international human rights framework in developing its policies and practices.

Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many Joint Strike Fighters have been purchased for initial operational test and evaluation; what type they were; and what the cost of each was; [22939]

(2) if he will estimate the cost to date of the initial operational test and evaluation phase for the Joint Strike Fighter 35B; [22940]

(3) how many flight hours there have been during the initial operational test and evaluation phase for the Joint Strike Fighter 35B. [22941]

Mr Robathan: The UK requires three instrumented Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) aircraft to conduct joint initial operational test and evaluation (IOT&E) with the US armed forces. The low rate initial production contract signed in 2009 contained the first two UK short take-off and vertical landing (STOVL) JSFs and set a target unit price at approximately £100 million. The unit price for the third aircraft is still subject to commercial sensitivity, but we expect a reduction in unit price in line with industry cost improvement and production learner requirements. Importantly, participation in joint IOT&E with the US services will meet the majority of our test and evaluation requirements as the mission systems are common between variants. The flying phase of IOT&E is not expected to commence before 2012.

Military Aircraft

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what platforms will continue to mount a maritime search radar after the withdrawal of the Nimrod; whether such a radar is to be mounted on any other aircraft which will be tasked to carry out long-range search-and-rescue; and if he will make a statement. [22605]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 11 November 2010]:* A range of other military aircraft provide search and rescue radar capability to the armed forces. While E-3D Sentry is optimised for the air to air role, its radar has a maritime search mode. Hercules C-130 aircraft are fitted with radar systems that provide basic maritime search capabilities. RAF Sea King HAR 3/3 A, Royal Navy Merlin Mk 1 and the RN Lynx helicopters all possess short-range surface search radar for use in maritime search and rescue work.

Military Bases

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will urge the US Administration to remove stores of cluster bombs on US bases in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [23664]

Nick Harvey: The US Administration has removed its stores of cluster munitions from its bases in the UK. There are no US or any other foreign cluster munition stockpiles in the UK.

NATO: European Naval Force

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will take steps to ensure data sharing between the NATO Maritime Force and the European Naval Force. [23450]

Mr Gerald Howarth: The UK Government continue actively to encourage member states of NATO and the EU to ensure that the data generated by present and future maritime sensors and systems are shared by all relevant maritime forces.

Navy: Accidents

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what records his Department keeps of collisions between Royal Navy vessels and naval vessels of other countries; on how many occasions in the last 10 years Royal Navy ships or submarines have been in collision with vessels of the French navy; and if he will make a statement. [23998]

Nick Harvey: The Department keeps records of any incident between Royal Navy vessels and other vessels, including with warships of other countries. This includes all signals, formal reports, investigations, charts, data recordings and tape recordings.

In the last 10 years, there has been one occasion when a Royal Navy vessel has been in a collision with a French Navy vessel. This occurred in February 2009 between the Royal Navy submarine HMS Vanguard and the French Submarine Le Triomphant.

Nimrod Aircraft

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to review the role of the Royal Air Force in Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance in support of operations in Afghanistan following his decision not to bring the Nimrod MRA4 into service. [23465]

Mr Robathan: Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance (ISTAR) capability has a vital role to play in military operations in Afghanistan: as with all requirements, we keep our ISTAR capabilities, including those provided by the Royal Air Force, under constant review to ensure that they continue to meet our mission objectives.

Rosyth Dockyard: Radiation Exposure

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 4 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 957W, on Rosyth Dockyard: Radiation Exposure, by what mechanism Babcock Marine (Rosyth) Ltd reports to his Department on compliance with radiation protection regulations; how many visits have been made by inspectors from the relevant regulators since the contract was signed; what the monetary value is of the contract between Babcock Marine (Rosyth) Ltd and his Department; and if he will place in the Library copies of all radiation protection monitoring reports made since the contract commenced. [23870]

Mr Robathan: The Nuclear Safety Infrastructure and Post Nuclear Operation and Maintenance contract between Babcock Marine (Rosyth) Ltd and the Ministry of Defence covers a three year period from April 2010 to March 2013. The value of this contract is approximately £11 million.

The contract requires that the company report all radiological occurrences or unplanned nuclear events at Rosyth to the Department. This is achieved through routine contract management and reporting processes. Additionally there is a bi-annual, Regulatory Interface Forum attended by the MOD and Babcock Marine (Rosyth) Ltd, where any such occurrences would be discussed.

Rosyth Dockyard, which is owned and operated by Babcock Marine, is regulated by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII) and the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency. Site Inspectors visit the Rosyth site on a regular basis; details on the exact number of visits are not held by the MOD and are a matter for Babcock Marine or the regulatory bodies.

Quarterly monitoring reports are produced by the NII and are published by the Health and Safety Executive.

Royal Navy: Manpower

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the likely effects on *(a)* his Department's operations at Kentigern House in Glasgow and *(b)* HMNB Clyde of the proposed reduction by 25,000 in the number of his Department's staff by 2015. [19715]

Mr Robathan: The Strategic Defence and Security Review stated that the Ministry of Defence civil service would decrease by 25,000 as the requirement for civilian support decreases in line with the development of new force structures, restructuring of defence capabilities, rationalisation of the defence estate and realisation of other non-front line savings. While no decisions have been taken on where those changes will be made, detailed proposals to deliver the changes will be brought forward in consultation with the Department's trade unions as quickly as possible as further work is taken forward.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Adult Education

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people have taken up a free training place for a first full level 2 qualification for those aged over 25 years in each of the last five years. [24282]

Mr Hayes: The following table shows the number of further education courses in each academic year where learners aged 25 or over are recorded as receiving fee remission due to the learner having a full level 2 entitlement.

Courses for learners aged 25 or over that received fee remission due to a full level 2 entitlement

	Further education/ learner responsive	Train to Gain
2004/05	4,700	[1]—
2005/06	27,600	[1]—
2006/07	53,400	[1]—
2007/08	58,100	[1]—
2008/09	33,700	501,700

[1] This field was added to the employer responsive data collection from 2008/09, and hence data are not available for Train to Gain for earlier years.

Notes:

1. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. Figures for 2008/09 are not directly comparable with earlier years due to a change in funding methodology.
3. Further education learners were returned on the FE ILR until 2007/08, and on the LR ILR from 2008/09.
4. Age is based on age at the start of the academic year. Figures include a small number of learners with unknown age.

Source:

FE/LR ad ER Individualised Learner Record.

Adult Education: Fees and Charges

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the future level of fees for those aged over 25 years in respect of a first full level 2 course; and if he will make a statement. [24281]

Mr Hayes: The spending review announcement on 20 October 2010 set out the need for a rebalancing of investment from public spending towards greater contributions from individuals and employers who benefit most and can afford to pay. The skills strategy and associated investment strategy for post-19 further education (FE) and skills, to be published later this autumn, will confirm our funding strategy for the spending review period, including the future investment in older learners.

In the 2010/11 academic year the public funding paid to FE colleges and training organisations for learners who are not eligible for full funding assumes a 50% contribution from the learner with the remainder funded by Government.

FE colleges and training organisations are autonomous and are responsible for setting their own fees policy.

AgustaWestland: Finance

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the financial assistance to AgustaWestland announced in the Comprehensive Spending Review has been approved by the Shareholder Executive. [23551]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 12 November 2010]:* The Shareholder Executive is one of the bodies responsible for providing advice to Ministers on the proposed terms of government financial assistance. The Shareholder Executive is not responsible for approving decisions to provide financial assistance; these decisions are taken by Ministers in the context of the spending review. The Government are currently in discussions with AgustaWestland regarding the proposed terms of Government financial assistance to the company, and the Shareholder Executive is involved in these discussions. Details of the proposed terms under discussion cannot be disclosed as they are subject to negotiations and are commercially sensitive.

Animation: Higher Education

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether animation degrees will be classified as degrees in a science, technology, engineering and mathematics subject for the purpose of the Government's proposed higher education funding changes. [24150]

Mr Hayes: We will set out our proposals for the future definition and funding treatment of priority subjects in the forthcoming higher education White Paper.

Apprentices

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what long-term role he plans for *(a)* apprenticeship training associations and *(b)* group training associations in respect of the new apprenticeship places announced in the comprehensive spending review; and if he will make a statement. [24552]

Mr Hayes: The increased funding announced in the comprehensive spending review is participation funding for adult apprenticeship training. This will mean that we will have in place sufficient funding for 75,000 more adult apprenticeship places than the previous Government were providing.

The Skills Funding Agency (SFA) allocates participation funding to colleges and providers to reflect the pattern of employer demand and funding is moved in year to reflect local need. We have no plans to target this funding at specific types of provider.

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the apprenticeship training associations pilot schemes funded by the Skills Funding Agency. [24553]

Mr Hayes: The Apprenticeship Training Agency (ATA) model is being piloted and progress will be monitored by the National Apprenticeship Service (NAS). Early evidence from the pilots is positive and they are proving effective in encouraging additional smaller employers to take on apprentices for the first time.

The ATAs contracts started in autumn 2009 and after an initial development phase they began recruiting in early 2010. The National Apprenticeship Service will review the 12 pilots in 2011.

An ATA code of practice is currently being developed by the NAS and tested with the ATA pilot organisations. This will test the theory of the model against the actual delivery and also give us an indication of how they are working in practice.

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people participated in an apprentice scheme funded by his Department between 2005 and 2010. [24682]

Mr Hayes: The following shows the number of apprenticeship starts in England from 2004/05 to 2008/09, the latest year for which final data are available.

Apprenticeship programme starts, 2004/05 to 2008/09

Academic year	*Number of starts*
2004/05	189,000
2005/06	175,000
2006/07	184,400
2007/08	224,800
2008/09	239,900

Notes:
1. All figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Information on the number of apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 16 November:
http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Source:
Individualised Learner Record

Business

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of companies *(a)* in each industry sector, *(b)* of each workforce size and *(c)* of each public listing status which comprise the 6 per cent. of high growth business referred to in his Department's document, Backing small business. [24481]

Mr Prisk: BIS has not made an estimate of the number of companies in each sector, of each size band, and of each public listing status which comprise the 6% high growth businesses.

However, further detail about this group of businesses identified as high growth is included in the research report published by NESTA titled "Measuring Business Growth", available at

http://www.nesta.org.uk/publications/reports/assets/features/measuring_business_growth

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has made an estimate of the number of *(a)* restructurings and *(b)* insolvencies of small and medium-sized enterprises likely to occur in the next 12 months. [24524]

Mr Davey: Official Statistics covering corporate restructurings are not compiled and no assessment has been made of numbers expected in the next 12 months.

The data sources used to compile the Insolvency Service's corporate insolvency statistics do not contain the necessary information from which small and medium-sized firms may be separately identified. The Insolvency Service has not made any assessment of the numbers of insolvencies among small and medium-sized enterprises in the next 12 months.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to his Department's document Backing small business, what level of per annum proportional growth his Department classifies as transformational. [24543]

Mr Prisk: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills will set out its plans for business improvement in more detail shortly.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding he plans to allocate for the proposed network of growth hubs, referred to in his Department's document Backing small business, in the comprehensive spending review period; and whether funding for those hubs will be drawn from the same budget as that allocated for the proposed network of technology and innovation centres. [24544]

Mr Prisk: At least £200 million will be made available for technology and innovation centres over the course of the spending review period. Funding allocations for growth hubs are still to be determined as part of the process of prioritising activity in line with the spending review settlement. The Government will confirm funding once this process is complete.

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on the inclusion of a country-by-country financial reporting standard in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development guidelines for multinational companies. [24609]

Mr Davey: The Government are seeking to address and take forward issues relating to taxation and disclosure during the current negotiations to update the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.

The OECD's Task Force on Tax and Development, is currently conducting a detailed examination of the issue of country-by-country reporting. This task force is expected to report within a year.

Consumer Focus

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the likely effects on the workload of Citizens Advice of his decision to abolish Consumer Focus and transfer its functions to that body. [24444]

Mr Davey: On 14 October, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) announced changes to the UK Consumer and Competition bodies:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/consumer-issues

In that statement he outlined proposals including the transfer of the functions of Consumer Focus to the national bodies for the Citizens Advice service in England and Wales and in Scotland.

BIS are now discussing implementation with the consumer bodies including Citizens Advice and Citizens Advice Scotland and with the Scottish, Welsh and Northern Ireland Governments. As also announced by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State, BIS will consult publicly on the main elements of the proposals in the new year.

Cumbria University: Finance

Tony Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will allocate funding to the university of Cumbria to enable that university to extend its programme of courses offered off its established campus facilities in West Cumbria. [24152]

Mr Hayes: Decisions on the allocation of funding to individual institutions are made by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) within the limits set by the overall level of funding made available by the Department.

EU Grants and Loans

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the European Commission on the disbursement of European Regional Development Fund money through regional development agencies. [24355]

Mr Prisk: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has had no recent discussions with the European Commission on the disbursement of European Regional Development Fund money through regional development agencies.

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding from the European Regional Development Fund he plans to allocate to the English regions in the period from 2010 to 2015. [24356]

Mr Prisk: European Regional Development Fund allocations to each of the English regions for the period 2007-13 have already been made and are shown in the following table. These allocations may be spent up until end 2015.

2007-13 ERDF allocations

	€	Million £[1]
England		
North West	756	651
Yorkshire and Humber	584	503
North East	376	324
East Midlands	268	231
West Midlands	400	345
East of England	111	96
London	182	157
South East	24	20
South West Comp	125	107
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	458	395
Total England	3,283	2,829

[1] Approximate values.

Executives

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will estimate the number of small and medium-sized enterprises run by *(a)* women and *(b)* men in England and Wales. [24569]

Mr Prisk: BIS estimate that there were 4,381,000 small and medium-sized enterprises in England and Wales at the start of 2009. Of these, BIS currently estimate that 14.3% (630,000) were majority-led by women, 61.6% (2,697,000) were majority-led by men and 24% (1,051,000) were equally led by men and women.

Green Investment Bank

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the funding the Green Investment Bank will attract in the next five years. [23444]

Mr Prisk: I refer the hon. Member to the Chancellor's spending review statement of 20 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 949.

As the Chancellor has announced, we will be funding the Green Investment Bank (GIB) from £1 billion of departmental budgets, as well as from significant proceeds from the sale of Government's assets.

While it would not be appropriate to speculate on the timing of asset sales, the use of these proceeds should provide opportunities for additional funding to be available over the next five years.

Furthermore, we are committed to working with the private sector to establish a GIB that is effective in mobilising additional private sector investment into green infrastructure projects.

Higher Education

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what degrees offered at universities are classified as science, technology, engineering and mathematics subjects. [24149]

Mr Hayes: There is no formal, single classification covering the broad grouping of subjects that typically includes Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). However, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has traditionally taken the view that STEM subjects are covered by groups A-K of the Joint Academic Coding System (JACS). The high-level subject groups in the JACS are:

	Subject
A	Medicine and Dentistry
B	Subjects allied to Medicine
C	Biological Sciences
D	Veterinary Sciences, Agriculture and related subjects
F	Physical Sciences
G	Mathematical and Computer Sciences
H	Engineering
J	Technologies
K	Architecture, Building and Planning
L	Social studies
M	Law
N	Business and Administrative studies
P	Mass Communications and Documentation
Q	Linguistics, Classics and related subjects
R	European Languages, Literature and related subjects
T	Eastern, Asiatic, African, American and Australasian Languages, Literature and related subjects
V	Historical and Philosophical studies
W	Creative Arts and Design
X	Education

Full codings can be found at:

http://www.hesa.ac.uk/dox/jacs/JACS_complete.pdf

Higher Education Innovation Fund

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what projects the Higher Education Innovation Fund is assisting in 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [23613]

Mr Hayes: The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) allocates Higher Education Innovation Funding (HEIF) on a formulaic basis to all higher education institutions in England. These institutions decide which activities to undertake in accordance with their individual strategies. The current strategies are available on the Institute for Knowledge Transfer's website at:

www.ikt.org.uk

Higher Education: Bexley

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and *(b)* the London Borough of Bexley applied for a university place in the last 12 months; and how many of those were successful. [23686]

Mr Hayes: The information is in the following table.

Applicants who were not accepted for entry will include: individuals who did not receive any offer; individuals who received an offer (conditional or unconditional) but decided not to go to university; individuals who received a conditional offer and fail to meet the specific conditions (e.g. they do not achieve certain grades); and individuals who decided to withdraw from the UCAS system.

Applicants and accepted applicants to full-time undergraduate courses in UK HEIs from Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and the London borough of Bexley, 2010

	Applicants	*Accepted applicants*
Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency	916	644
London borough of Bexley	2,440	1,710

Source:

UCAS provisional end of year data (represents applicants and accepted applicants at 13 October 2010; end of year data will be available from 20 January 2011

Higher Education: Finance

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what representations he has received from universities on the proposed reduction in the level of public funding of universities. [23601]

Mr Hayes: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and ministerial colleagues have received representations from all of the higher education representative bodies and many individual institutions on the future of higher education funding. My colleagues and I hold regular meetings with such organisations.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what modelling his Department has undertaken for the purposes of its impact assessment of the proposed reduction in teaching grants. [23602]

Mr Hayes: The Government will publish a full impact assessment when we put formal proposals to Parliament for amending the legislation that underpins higher education funding and student support. The Government will undertake a further impact assessment of any wider changes proposed as a result of a Higher Education White Paper, and this will be published alongside the White Paper in the winter.

Higher Education: Private Sector

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the potential role for private sector providers of higher education following the implementation of proposed reforms to the higher education system. [24523]

Mr Hayes: The Government want to make it easier for new providers who can offer excellent teaching and a high-quality experience for students to enter the higher education sector. However, this is one of a number of institutional issues in the wake of Lord Browne's independent review of higher education and student finance which requires thorough debate and consultation.

We intend therefore to publish a Higher Education White Paper with proposals to which experts from the sector can react, leading to a Higher Education Bill.

Innovation

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will make assistance available for businesses in the same sector as each of his proposed innovation centres which are not located in the same region as the centre. [23225]

Mr Hayes: The proposed technology and innovation centres will be national in scope and accessed by businesses in the same sector regardless of location.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on what date he expects each of his proposed innovation centres to be *(a)* built and *(b)* in operation. [23227]

Mr Hayes: The network of Technology and Innovation Centres will further develop existing regional development agency (RDA) funded centres which are excellent and establish a limited number of new centres.

New centres will be established on a 'needs for basis' in the context of the Technology Strategy Board's overall programme of work, and we cannot therefore specify dates on which they will be built and in operation at this stage. However, the Technology Strategy Board will identify its strategic priorities for the upcoming comprehensive spending review (CSR) period and the areas for which it will assess the need for new centres through more detailed work in partnership with industry, academe and stakeholders, including wider government, in April 2011.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has assessed the likely requirement for non-EU nationals to work in his proposed innovation centres. [23239]

Mr Hayes: The Government have always been clear that we will continue to allow the brightest and the best to come to the UK, including top scientists and researchers. Centres may benefit from recruiting non-EU nationals to meet the highly specialised skills requirements they will have. This will be a matter for individual centres, although they will have to work within the framework of rules regulating non-EU migration.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what plans he has for his proposed innovation centres to engage with *(a)* primary schools, *(b)* secondary schools and *(c)* further education colleges; [23240]

(2) whether there will be a duty on his proposed innovation centres to undertake community outreach work. [23241]

Mr Hayes: We expect the Technology and Innovation Centres to engage formally with further education colleges, and utilise schemes such as Knowledge Transfer partnerships, where appropriate, to ensure the relevant flow of people and skills that will help business exploit new and emerging technologies.

We will also encourage the Technology and Innovation Centres to undertake appropriate outreach activities with local communities and schools.

Minimum Wage

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for future changes to the level of the minimum wage. [24213]

Mr Davey: The coalition agreement states that Government supports the national minimum wage (NMW) because of the protection it gives low income workers and the incentives to work it provides.

The independent Low Pay Commission advises Government on NMW issues and makes recommendations on the rates each year. The LPC will report to Government again in February 2011. The Government will make decisions on the level of the NMW based on the LPC's recommendations.

Myasthenia Gravis: Research

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding his Department allocated for research relating to myasthenia gravis in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* each of the previous three years. [23580]

Mr Hayes: The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government support medical and clinical research.

In the last three years, MRC expenditure on research relating to myasthenia gravis was as follows:

	£
2007/08	214,000
2008/09	323,000
2009/10	259,000

Figures for 2010/11 are not yet available.

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding his Department plans to provide for research relating to myasthenia gravis in each of the next three financial years. [23581]

Mr Hayes: The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government support medical and clinical research. In keeping with the Haldane principle, prioritisation of an individual research council's spending within its allocation is not a decision for Ministers. The MRC will make decisions on its priorities once its allocation is clear.

The MRC funds investigator-led research in response-mode and encourages research proposals from the academic community and always welcomes high quality applications for support into any aspect of human health and these are judged in open competition with other demands on funding. Awards are made according to their scientific quality and importance to human health.

New Businesses

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will estimate the number of new businesses started by *(a)* men and *(b)* women in England in the last 12 months. [24570]

Mr Prisk: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills do not produce estimates of the number of new businesses started by men and women.

Official data on business start-ups and closures are published by the Office for National Statistics in the 'Business Demography' publication. However, since gender is not collected on the administrative systems used to produce this data, it is not possible to provide this information by gender.

News International

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 367W, on News International, whether *(a)* he and *(b)* the Minister for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries discussed with (i) James Murdoch and (ii) Rebekah Brooks (A) the Metropolitan Police's investigation on telephone hacking and blagging and (B) News Corporation's bid for BSkyB; and if he will make a statement. [21844]

Mr Vaizey *[holding answer 4 November 2010]:* The Secretary of State for Business Innovation and Skills had a short introductory telephone conversation with James Murdoch on 15 July during which the News Corporation bid for BSkyB was raised. They did not discuss the Metropolitan police's investigation on telephone hacking.

In my role as a joint BIS/DCMS Minister, I met Rebekah Brooks on 12 July. During this meeting neither News Corporation's bid for BSkyB, nor the Metropolitan police's investigation on telephone hacking were discussed.

Office for Fair Access

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many people were employed in the Office for Fair Access in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010; [23595]

(2) what funding he plans to allocate to the Office for Fair Access to take account of his Department's proposed changes to higher education funding in each year between 2010 and 2015; [23600]

(3) how many staff he expects the Office for Fair Access to employ in each year between 2011 and 2015. [23603]

Mr Hayes: The Office for Fair Access employed four people including the Director in 2008, 2009 and 2010. Staffing for future years will be a matter for the Director to determine based on the resource allocated to him. OFFA's budget for 2010-11 was £464,000. Allocations for future years will be announced in due course.

The future status and role of OFFA is currently under review and we will bring forward proposals in the forthcoming Higher Education White Paper.

One NorthEast: Assets

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the properties owned by One NorthEast after its closure. [23355]

Mr Prisk: As set out in the White Paper on local growth, RDA assets and liabilities will be disposed of in line with a clear set of principles which include a key aim of achieving the best possible outcome for the region consistent with achieving value to the public purse.

Royal Mail

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of small and medium-sized enterprises with contracts to supply goods and services to Royal Mail; what the average monetary value of such contracts is in a 12 month period; and how much notice such suppliers will receive of implementation of the outcomes of the review of supplier payment terms. [23916]

Mr Davey: Royal Mail's supplier contracts are an operational matter for the company.

I have therefore asked the chief executive of Royal Mail, Moya Greene, to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

Science: Finance

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the change in the science budget was in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms between 2002 and 2008. [24532]

Mr Hayes: The Science and Research Budget increased from £2.1 billion in 2002-03 to £3.7 billion in 2008-09.

(a) This is a change of £1.6 billion in cash terms.

(b) This is a change of £1.2 billion in real terms.

Space Technology

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department plans to take to increase the number of business start-ups in the space sector. [23772]

Mr Hayes: This Department through the Science and Technology Facilities Council, Technology Strategy Board and the UK Space Agency will be opening a business incubation centre at Harwell on the 2 December 2010 jointly with the European Space Agency. This aims to create 10 new businesses a year across the UK.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding he expects his Department to provide to businesses in the space sector in each year of the Spending Review period. [23773]

Mr Hayes: The budget for the space sector in each year of the spending review is still under finalisation within the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. The final decision will be taken in the light of the overall departmental budget allocations and should be agreed before the end of the year.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will identify those regions most likely to host the predicted growth in the space industry. [23774]

Mr Hayes: The recent survey of the size and health of the UK Space Industry suggests that the majority of companies are based in the South East of England, and so in the immediate future growth is therefore most likely to occur in this area. Companies are also beginning to grow in other parts of the country and I would anticipate that in the longer term growth will take place in other regions, even if from a small baseline.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on the establishment of a national Earth observation service to acquire images on behalf of Government Departments. [23775]

Mr Hayes: In 2010 an Industry led Innovation Growth Strategy report recommended that the UK establish a national Earth observation data service. In response this Department, through the UK Space Agency, is supporting a review of the Government's need for data, including imagery data, from space. This will estimate the size and nature of the public sector demand for Earth observation services now and into the future. The review will determine whether cost efficiencies and wealth creation can be derived from a strategic government procurement exercise creating a national Earth observation service. On the basis of this work, the final Government position will be taken during 2011 or 2012.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding his Department provides to private companies working in the space sector for testing technology in orbit. [23776]

Mr Hayes: The exact level of funding is determined by the quality of relevant proposals in the all areas of space technology. At present we have one project for a small satellite and a nano satellite to test technology in orbit, and the estimated cost to HMG is approximately £4 million. In addition individual payloads will be provided through a competition.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what alterations his Department has made to the public subsidies available to private businesses involved in the space sector since 11 May 2010. [23777]

Mr Hayes: The Department offers no direct public subsidies to companies in the space industry. In term of space expenditure this Department has initiated no alterations to the plans in place on 11 May 2010.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of research and development spending in the space sector in each year of the Spending Review period. [23832]

Mr Hayes: The budget for the space sector in each year of the spending review is still under finalisation within the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. The final decision will be taken in the light of the overall departmental budget allocations and should be agreed before the end of the year.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding his Department plans to provide to support the satellite manufacturing industry in 2010-11. [23833]

Mr Hayes: This Department estimates that approximately £230m will be paid in contributions to the European Space Agency in 2010/11. This accounts for the majority of the UK's space spend and we do not keep specific breakdowns on how much goes directly to satellite manufacturing. Within the industry, satellite manufacturing accounts for about 50-60% of total turnover.

Students: Fees and Charges

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will assess the merits of providing a facility for forgivable loans for medical students after the rise in the cap on tuition fees. [24533]

Mr Hayes: Currently full-time undergraduate medical students in England can apply for the same student support from Student Finance England as other full-time undergraduates for the first four years of their course. From year five onwards the Department of Health pay the tuition fee in full and provide a means-tested bursary in addition to a reduced level maintenance loan and supplementary grants from Student Finance England. Shared arrangements are also in place for students studying Medicine as a second undergraduate degree and for those on graduate entry courses.

The Government have announced its broad plans for funding higher education in an oral statement on Wednesday 3 November. We will discuss the impact on medical students with the Department of Health, who share responsibility for providing student support for medical students.

Students: Finance

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the likely effect of his proposed changes to student funding arrangements on the ability of graduates to take on further loans incur on leaving university. [23406]

Mr Hayes: Income contingent student loan borrowers are not required to pay back their loan until the April after they finish their course. Repayments are based on 9% of income above the threshold and linked directly to a borrower's income and not the size of their loan.

The Council for Mortgage Lenders advise that a student loan is very unlikely to materially impact on an individual's ability to get a mortgage. However, any reduction in net income may result in a commensurate reduction in the amount a mortgage lender is willing to lend. Our proposal to increase the repayment threshold from £15,000 to £21,000 will increase the amount of net income available to borrowers because monthly repayments will fall as a result.

A student's ability to obtain a loan, such as a small business loan will depend on the bank or institution approached, and their terms and conditions.

Supermarkets: Ombudsman

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to implement the proposal in the coalition agreement to establish a grocery market ombudsman. [24673]

Mr Davey: The coalition agreement commits the Government to introduce the Groceries Code Adjudicator (GCA). A consultation on the GCA took place between 5 February and 30 April 2010. The Government response of 3 August set out how we would take this body forward

> http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/business-law/docs/competition-matters/10-1011-groceries-supply-code-practice-government-response.pdf

We now have approval to publish a draft Bill in the first Session of this Parliament. This will be undertaken as soon as parliamentary time allows.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office

Mr Umunna: To ask the Solicitor-General what his most recent assessment is of the effectiveness of the HM Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office in carrying out its functions. [24266]

The Solicitor-General *[holding answer 15 November 2010]:* The Revenue and Customs Prosecution Office (RCPO) merged with the Crown Prosecution Service on 1 January 2010. Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate's (HMCPSI) report of July 2009 reported favourably on RCPO performance. The report concluded that RCPO has succeeded in restoring public and judicial confidence in customs prosecutions.

EDUCATION

Children In Care

Paul Goggins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the average time spent in care by looked-after children was in the latest period for which figures are available. [22736]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 10 November 2010]:* The average of any set of data is usually taken to be the mean. However in this case the mean length of time spent in care is heavily influenced by children who have spent a long period of their lives in care, around 4,600 looked after children have spent more than 10 years in care. Therefore we have also provided information on the median (defined as the middle value of data sorted from lowest to highest) length of time spent in care.

Both the mean and median time spent in care for children who were looked after at 31 March 2010 are shown in the following table. These figures relate to the child's latest period of care and relate to the latest period for which information is available.

Children looked after at 31 March by the average length of time in care, year ending 31 March 2010. Coverage: England

		Number
	Years	*Months*
Mean duration of time in care	3	5
Median duration of time in care	2	0

Source:
SSDA 903

Departmental Chief Scientific Advisers

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Education on how many occasions each Minister in his Department has met his Department's chief scientific officer since 6 May 2010. [15442]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education's chief scientific adviser has met the Secretary of State on two occasions since 6 May 2010. During the same period the Minister of State, Department for Education, my hon. Friend the Member for Bognor Regis and Littlehampton (Mr Gibb) has met her on one occasion; both the Minister of State, Department for Education, my hon. Friend the Member for Brent Central (Sarah Teather) and the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State have met her twice, and I have met her on one occasion.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Dr Phillip Lee: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what mechanisms are in place to ensure that his Department's decisions on regional funding allocations are based on the most recent available population data. [20692]

Mr Gibb: Most funding from the Department is given to either local authorities or schools. Most education funding is allocated using the number of pupils in school in the January prior to the start of the financial year. The formulae used to distribute resources for children, families and young people's services takes account of latest available population estimates produced by the Office for National Statistics.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many young people in each local authority ward in Leicester South constituency receive education maintenance allowance. [22317]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener the YPLA's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member for Leicester South with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Rotherham

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many students resident in Rotherham will no longer receive education maintenance allowance once it ends. [21609]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener the YPLA's chief executive, will write to the right hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Education: Assessments

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated research on the effects of rewarding pupils for effort rather than talent. [23009]

Tim Loughton: The Department has analysed research evidence on the effects of the use of rewards and incentives on pupils' performance. The Department has not commissioned any external research on the topic.

Free School Meals

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children in each London borough were eligible for free school meals on the latest date for which figures are available. [22384]

Mr Gibb: The latest information on free school meal eligibility can be found in tables 11a, 11b and 11c of the Statistical First Release 'Schools, Pupils and their Characteristics: January 2010' which can be found at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000925/index.shtml

Free Schools

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to publish the names of the promoters of each bid to establish a free school. [21472]

Mr Gibb: The names of the first 16 Free School proposals that have been approved to progress to the business case and plan stage can be found on the Department's website at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a0064280/written-ministerial-statement-relating-to-new-free-school-proposals

As other proposals are approved to progress to the business case and plan stage their details will be published on the Department's website.

Free Schools: Freedom of Information

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to publish the names of donors to free schools; and whether such schools will be classified as public authorities for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [21471]

Mr Gibb: Under the Academies Act 2010, the Academy Trusts of Free Schools and Academies will be deemed as exempt charities from January 2011. Where Academy Trusts receive individual donations, there is no requirement in charity law or in the Charity Commission's Statement of Recommended Practice for them to disclose the names of individual donors or the amount of individual donations.

The Academies Act 2010 included a provision that extends the Freedom of Information Act to all Academy Trusts, including those of Free Schools. The FOI Act will apply to al Academy Trusts from January 2011, including the Academy Trusts of Free Schools.

Local Safeguarding Children Boards

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on the independence from local agencies of the chair of a local safeguarding children board. [21678]

Tim Loughton: The Government believe that the chair should be someone independent of the local agencies so that the local safeguarding children board can exercise its local challenge function effectively. It is expected that all local safeguarding children boards will work towards this over time.

As part of her review of child protection, Professor Eileen Munro will consider the role of local safeguarding children boards and how they can become more effective in their leadership role in multi-agency learning about child protection. Professor Munro's final report is due in April 2011 and the Government look forward to receiving her recommendations.

Mental Health: Curriculum

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what support his Department provides for the inclusion of mental health education within the school curriculum; and if he will make a statement; [21865]

(2) if he will ensure that mental health education is provided within the school curriculum; and if he will make a statement. [21864]

Mr Gibb: Currently mental health education is included in the non-statutory programmes of study for Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education. This covers learning about the characteristics of emotional and mental health, and the causes, symptoms and treatments of some mental and emotional health disorders. Pupils should be taught how physical, mental and emotional health affects our ability to lead fulfilling lives. The programmes of study give teachers a framework for teaching, creating scope to tailor the subject to meet the needs of their students.

The Department does not provide specific support to schools for the inclusion of mental health education within the curriculum. However, schools usually seek support from local partners and other organisations to help them to teach about mental health.

We want all young people to benefit from high quality PSHE and are considering how best to ensure this while retaining discretion for schools to decide how to approach often sensitive issues.

Public Expenditure: Greater London

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his Department's capital expenditure per head was in *(a)* London and *(b)* the North West in each of the last five years. [21451]

Tim Loughton: Based on information compiled by the Department for the most recent Country and Regional Analysis exercise the expenditure per head for these two regions is as follows:

	Outturn				Plans
Region	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
London	125.67	123.80	133.65	168.35	207.00
North West	95.61	95.14	101.98	122.12	150.49

The Country and Regional Analysis is a yearly exercise that departments participate in that allocates departmental spending to regions based on who benefits from that spending, not necessarily on where the spending takes place.

The most recent exercise culminated in the publication of the Public expenditure Statistical Analyses Command Paper (PESA 2010, CM 7890).

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much and what proportion of his Department's capital expenditure was allocated to *(a)* London and *(b)* the North West in each of the last five financial years. [21465]

Tim Loughton: Based on information compiled by the Department for the most recent Country and Regional Analysis exercise the expenditure per head for these two regions is as follows:

	Outturn								Plans	
	2005-06		*2006-07*		*2007-08*		*2008-09*		*2009-10*	
Region	*£ million*	*%*	*£ million*	*%*	*£ million*	*%*	*£ million*	*%*	*£ million*	*%*
London	7.456	14.77	7.512	14.80	7.557	14.79	7.621	14.80	7.686	14.81
North West	6.840	13.55	6.853	13.50	6.864	13.43	6.911	13.42	6.944	13.38

The Country and Regional Analysis is a yearly exercise that Departments participate in that allocates departmental spending to regions based on who benefits from that spending, not necessarily on where the spending takes place.

The most recent exercise culminated in the publication of the Public expenditure Statistical Analyses Command Paper (PESA 2010, CM 7890).

Schools: Admissions

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of children in each local education authority area without *(a)* a primary and *(b)* a secondary school place (i) on 31 March 2010 and (ii) at the beginning of the 2010-11 school year. [21041]

Mr Gibb: The provision of sufficient school places is the statutory responsibility of local authorities. Every child of statutory school age must be provided with a place.

We are aware that in some areas there is exceptional growth in demand for pupil places, particularly for primary pupils. The Secretary of State has said that meeting the demand for additional places will be priority for investment over the spending review period.

Schools: Anti-Semitism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what research his Department has *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* evaluated on the causes of anti-Semitism in schools in each of the last three years. [22003]

Tim Loughton: No research on the causes of anti-Semitism in schools has been undertaken nor evaluated by the Department in the last three years.

Schools: Standards

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which local authority areas are listed by Ofsted as having been in special measures for more than a year. [22620]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 8 November 2010]*: Doncaster and Haringey local authorities were judged to be in the lowest rating category in Ofsted's annual assessment of children's services for 2008 and 2009, the latest years for which ratings have been published.

Schools: Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of schools in Warrington North constituency which will be eligible for the pupil premium and *(b)* the monetary value of that premium to be made to each school in 2011-12. [19909]

Mr Gibb: On 26 July 2010 we launched the Consultation on school funding 2011-12: Introducing a pupil premium. This set out the proposed methodology for allocating such a premium, including options on the best deprivation indicator. The consultation ended on 18 October 2010 and we are now considering over 700 responses that we have received.

A statement of the outcome will be made shortly.

Special Educational Needs

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to reduce the attainment gap between pupils *(a)* with and *(b)* without special educational needs. [22921]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 9 November 2010]*: The attainment gap between those with special education needs and their peers is too wide. We want to close this gap and ensure that young people with special educational fulfil their potential. The Educational White Paper and the SEN Green Paper will set out proposals to improve outcomes for these young people.

Safety Education: Fireworks

Mr Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what teaching is provided to children on the *(a)* safe use of and *(b)* risks associated with fireworks. [22290]

Mr Gibb: Schools can choose to cover these issues as a part of safety education. As fireworks are used increasingly, not only for the traditional 'Firework Night' on 5 November, but also to celebrate festivals such as Diwali and the Chinese new year, their safe use is of great importance. However, we leave it to the professional judgement of teachers to choose whether and how to teach this aspect of risk management.

The Community and Home section of the Directgov website:

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/index.htm

is a good resource for teachers and parents, who can raise children's awareness of risks and how to manage them.

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Complaints

Helen Jones: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, pursuant to the answer of 26 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 177W, whether a letter from an hon. Member needs to be headed with the word complaint to be classified as a complaint by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA); and what marking would be sufficient to satisfy the requirements of IPSA complaints procedure to clearly indicate that an e-mail or letter should be treated as a complaint. [22881]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald:

As Interim Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking pursuant to the Answer of 26 October 2010, Official Report, column 177W, whether a letter from an hon. Member needs to be headed with the word complaint to be classified as a complaint by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA); and what marking would be sufficient to satisfy the requirements of IPSA complaints procedure to clearly indicate that an e-mail or letter should be treated as a complaint. 22881

We request that Members head complaints as such so that they can be identified easily and the complaints investigation process can be instigated.

As stated in the published complaints procedure, we ask that letters or emails be headed "formal complaint".

Members and Members' Staff: National Insurance Contributions

Bob Russell: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what measures the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has in place to ensure that the National Insurance contributions in respect of *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* staff of hon. Members are paid on the correct dates so as to ensure that there is no break in each individual's record of contributions; and if he will make a statement. [23057]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald:

As Interim Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what measures the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has in place to ensure that the National Insurance contributions in respect of (a) hon. Members and (b) staff of hon. Members are paid on the correct dates so as to ensure that there is no break in each individual's record of contributions; and if he will make a statement.

Deductions for National Insurance contributions for MPs and their staff are deducted on a monthly basis through payroll. Month-end reconciliations happen to ensure deductions are correct and payment to the National Insurance Contributions Office (NICO) take place before the monthly cut-off date. From September, monthly reports have been run to ensure that all individuals have a table letter and that no individuals are on an X code (no contributions involved), unless they are self- employed.

Members: National Insurance Contributions

Bob Russell: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what steps the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has taken to inform the Department for Work and Pensions of each instance where the record of National Insurance payments of *(a)* an hon. Member and *(b)* a number of staff of an hon. Member has been broken as a result of a failure to contribute the appropriate payment on the due date; and if he will make a statement. [22829]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald:

As Interim Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what steps the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has taken to inform the Department for Work and Pensions of each instance where the record of National Insurance payments of (a) an hon. Member and (b) a number of staff of an hon. Member has been broken as a result of a failure to contribute the appropriate payment on the due date; and if he will make a statement.

IPSA has not informed the Department for Work and Pensions of any cases where National Insurance payments of MPs or their staff have been broken due to incorrect contributions. In the few cases where contributions were not made, for whatever reason, IPSA has subsequently brought these contributions up to date. There is no reason to notify the Department for Work and Pensions.

Bob Russell: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, in respect of how many *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* staff of hon. Members the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has not deducted monthly National Insurance payments on the correct date; and how many months by contributions were affected in each case. [22830]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald:

As Interim Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking, in respect of how many (a) hon. Members and (b) staff of hon. Members the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has not deducted monthly National Insurance payments on the correct date; and how many monthly contributions were affected in each case.

Due to an error in the data transferred from House of Commons to IPSA, four people were transferred with a "table letter X" which led to no contributions being collected from them. The error was rectified in September when all contributions were brought up to date to include contributions for the missing months of June, July and August.

Members: Security

Mark Pritchard: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what account the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority takes of the likely effects on the security of the *(a)* family and *(b)* staff of hon. Members when taking decisions on the release of the documentation to the public. [21699]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald:

As Interim Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what account the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority takes of the likely effects on the security of the (a) family and (b) staff of hon. Members when taking decisions on the release of the documentation to the public.

In framing our policy on what information IPSA should publish, we have been mindful of our duties under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) and the Data Protection Act (1998). We have carefully considered any security issues that may arise and have consulted the Information Commissioner's Office and the House authorities, including the House security adviser, on these matters.

Trade Unions

Helen Jones: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, how many members of staff of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority have trade union membership fees deducted from their salaries. [21923]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald:

As Interim Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many members of staff at IPSA have trade union membership feeds deducted from their salaries.

IPSA currently deducts trade union fees from the salaries of 15 employees.

Travel

Helen Jones: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what contracts the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) has with *(a)* the Government Car Service and *(b)* other transport providers; what the terms are of each such contract; what the annual cost to the public purse is of each such contract; and how many IPSA staff are entitled to use transport provided under each such contract. [22340]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald:

As Interim Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what contracts the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) has with (a) the Government Car Service and (b) other transport providers; what the terms are of each such contract; what the annual cost to the public purse is of each such contract; and how many IPSA staff are entitled to use transport provided under each such contract.

Aside from where IPSA provides assistance to Members of Parliament on a case by case basis, IPSA does not hold any contracts with the Government Car Service or other transport providers. No IPSA staff are entitled to use transport provided by the Government Car Service or other such providers.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

House of Commons: Housing

Lorely Burt: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission on how many nights the accommodation in *(a)* 2 Parliament Street, *(b)* 3 Parliament Street, *(c)* 2a Canon Row, *(d)* 2b Canon Row, *(e)* 4 Canon Row, *(f)* 102 Rochester Row and *(g)* 22 John Islip Street was used in each of the last five years; and by whom. [23461]

Sir Stuart Bell: I refer the hon. Lady to the answer to the hon. Member for Maldon (Mr Whittingdale), as corrected on 12 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 3MC, which lists the post-holders using the accommodation in *(a)* to *(f)*. This accommodation consists of six residences, privately occupied by post holders and their families, together with sleeping facilities provided for staff of the House who need to be available on the parliamentary estate over prolonged periods and at unpredictable times. The House does not record the number of nights on which each is used.

Occupancy figures for *(g)*, 22 John Islip Street, which provides hostel-style sleeping accommodation for staff who undertake occasional late night duties or who have an approved business need to remain in London overnight are as follows:

	Bed nights[1]
2005	1.341
2006	1.527
2007	[2]—
2008	1.715
2009	1.652
2010	[3]1.212

[1] Bed nights denotes the number of beds occupied during the year.

[2] Data incomplete. Average occupancy similar to 2008 and 2009.

[3] Bed nights to end October.

Meat: Slaughter

Mr Knight: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission whether any *(a)* beef, *(b)* lamb and *(c)* chicken served in House of Commons catering outlets was slaughtered using halal methods in the last 12 months; and how customers are made aware of the slaughtering method of the meat served. [24197]

Sir Stuart Bell: No beef or lamb purchased by the House of Commons is halal slaughtered unless specifically requested by an event organiser. However, it has recently come to the attention of the House of Commons Catering Service that it has unknowingly received supplies of poultry slaughtered using pre-stun halal methods, and consequently customers have not been made aware of this fact. Contracts for the supply of meat and poultry are currently in the process of being re-tendered and as part of that process it has become apparent that the practice of supplying halal meats and poultry is widespread in the catering supply chain. The House Service is in discussions with bidders about how this can best be managed in future.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the contribution of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health on 2 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 900, when the Government commissioned a systematic review of the evidence; who was appointed to conduct the review and what relevant specialist qualifications each such appointee holds; and if he will make it his policy to include persons in the review who have wide knowledge or experience in *(a)* law, *(b)* social work, *(c)* philosophy, *(d)* religion, *(e)* medicine and *(f)* science. [23715]

Anne Milton: The review of induced abortion and mental health was commissioned in January 2010 and is being led by the Royal College of Psychiatrists. Information on membership of the review team is shown in the following table.

	Specialist qualifications
Dr Roch Cantwell	Consultant Perinatal Psychiatrist Royal College of Psychiatrists
Dr Ian Jones	Consultant Perinatal Psychiatrist, Royal College of Psychiatrist
Dr Tahir Mahmood	Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
Dr Judy Shakespeare	General Practitioner
Professor Tim Kendall	Director of National Collaborating Centre for Mental Health, Consultant Psychiatrist and Medical Director, Sheffield Health and Social Care Trust

A group comprising systematic reviewers, an information scientist, a project manager and the Department's policy lead is supporting the review team. The review will be sent out for consultation, prior to publication, to a selected group of experts in the field, including the Royal Colleges of Nursing and Physicians, statutory organisations and expert published researchers.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 1 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 626-27W, on abortion, whether his Department's guidance on parental involvement applies to other surgical procedures; and if he will make a statement. [23716]

Anne Milton: Legally, health professionals are able to provide health advice and treatment, including surgical procedures, to young people aged under-16 without parental knowledge or consent. However, they must first establish that without that advice or treatment the young person's physical or mental health, or both, would be likely to suffer and the young person understands the treatment and advice proposed and its implications.

The Department issued guidance on the provision of contraceptive, sexual and reproductive health services for young people aged under-16 in July 2004. The guidance specifically covers treatment for abortion and emphasises that

> "health professionals should discuss the benefits of the young women involving her parents. In the rare cases where she cannot be persuaded to do so, every effort should be made to find another adult to provide support, for example another family member or specialist youth worker".

Autism

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the merits of a National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence Quality Standard in respect of autism. [23942]

Paul Burstow: The case for developing a Quality Standard for autism will be considered as part of work to commission a comprehensive library of such Standards from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE), in line with plans set out in the White Paper Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS.

NICE is already developing clinical guidelines on autism: one for children and young people with autism, scheduled to be published in September 2011, and one for adults with autism, scheduled to be published in July 2012.

Autism: Health Services

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether his Department's forthcoming statutory guidance on, Implementing Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives will require local authorities to record the unmet needs of individuals diagnosed with autism in order to assist planning for future service provision; [23941]

(2) if he will take steps to ensure that his Department's forthcoming statutory guidance on services for adults with autism, Implementing Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives, is accessible to individuals to be able to use to hold their local services to account; [23944]

(3) Health if he will take steps to ensure that his Department's forthcoming statutory guidance on services for adults with autism, Implementing Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives, increases the standard of training provided for staff in health and social care in autism. [23945]

Paul Burstow: The national consultation on the statutory guidance closed on 22 October. We are currently in the process of analysing the response, which will inform the further development of the statutory guidance. Ministers will then consider a revised draft and take final decisions on content. We would not wish nor would it be appropriate to anticipate this process.

The Autism Act sets the publication date for the statutory guidance, which must be produced and published before 31 December 2010. We will consider carefully how the guidance can be made accessible to individuals and their families.

Congenital Myasthenic Syndrome

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he made of the number of babies born with Congenital Myasthenic Syndrome in each of the last three years. [23583]

Anne Milton: The information requested is as follows

Number of finished admission episodes for congenital and developmental myasthenia in newborns (2007-08 to 2009-10), activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

	Number
2009-10	0
2008-09	0
2007-08	1

Notes:

1. A finished admission episode (FAE) is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. FAEs are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

2. HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England and from some independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Departmental Lobbying

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much his Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent from the public purse on influencing public policy through *(a)* employing external (i) public affairs companies, (ii) strategic consultancies and (iii) corporate communications firms, *(b)* external marketing and *(c)* other activities in each of the last 10 years; [23761]

(2) which of his Department's non-departmental public bodies have undertaken activities to influence public policy for which they engaged *(a)* public affairs and *(b)* public relations consultants in each year since 1997; and at what monetary cost in each such year. [23784]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Those bodies which procured work from public affairs consultancies between 1999-2000 and 2008-09 were identified in the answer of 23 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 853W, which showed summary expenditure.

Food: Labelling

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken in preparation for the EPSCO meeting on 6 and 7 December 2010 to ensure that the UK retains its right to additional voluntary schemes using front-of-pack food labelling; and if he will make a statement. [23781]

Anne Milton: The United Kingdom has been actively involved in all the Council discussions to progress proposals for additional voluntary schemes. I understand that the text to be presented to the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (EPSCO) is expected to allow voluntary Front of Pack nutrition labelling, with information on energy, fat, saturated fat, sugars and salt with percentage Guideline Daily Amount, as well as additional forms of expression and presentation (format unspecified) on a voluntary basis. However discussions are ongoing.

General Practitioners

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what timetable he has set for the implementation of his proposals for GP commissioning. [23624]

Mr Simon Burns: We are committed to a staged implementation of our proposals for new general practitioner (GP) commissioning arrangements. Subject to the outcomes of the analysis of the consultation responses the Department has received and to parliamentary approval of the necessary primary legislation, our indicative timetable sets out that GP consortiums will begin to form, where they wish to, and where they are ready to do so, in 2010-11, and that throughout 2011-12 a more comprehensive system of shadow consortiums will be in place, up and running and learning. We also propose that the NHS Commissioning Board will be established in shadow form in 2011-12.

By April 2012, consortiums will be formally established with indicative allocations and responsibility to prepare commissioning plans. The NHS Commissioning Board will also be established as an independent statutory body.

By 2013, we propose that we will have fully engaged and authorised GP consortiums with real budgets and holding contracts with providers.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether GPs will be responsible for commissioning *(a)* hepatitis (i) B and (ii) C and *(b)* other specialist services; and if he will make a statement. [23625]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper 'Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS' set out our proposals to devolve power and responsibility for commissioning services to local consortiums of general practitioner (GP) practices.

We propose that GP consortiums will be responsible for commissioning the great majority of national health service services, including for non-complicated cases of hepatitis B and C, depending on local service provision. We will expect consortiums to involve relevant health and social care professionals from all sectors in helping design care pathways or care packages that achieve more integrated delivery of care, higher quality, and more efficient use of NHS resources. This will create an effective dialogue across all health and, where appropriate, social care professionals.

We propose that the NHS Commissioning Board will commission national specialised services and regional specialised services as set out in the Specialised Services National Definitions Set. This may include services for complicated cases of hepatitis B and C which are included in the definition of specialised services for Liver, Biliary and Pancreatic Medicine and Surgery (adult).

'Liberating the NHS: Commissioning for Patients' invited views on a number of areas of the commissioning agenda, including asking consultees to consider whether there are any services currently commissioned as regional specialised services that could potentially be commissioned in the future by commissioning consortiums. The engagement exercise closed on 11 October and the Department is now analysing all of the contributions received.

Health Services

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has plans to produce a new edition of the Specialised Services National Definitions Set; whether the NHS Commissioning Board plans to use the third edition of the set as the basis for its role in commissioning National Specialised Services; and if he will make a statement. [23729]

Mr Simon Burns: The Specialised Services National Definitions Set (SSNDS) has recently been updated through a long process of consultation which involved key clinicians and patient groups.

The SSNDS will form the solid basis for considering which specialised services the Secretary of State will ask the NHS Commissioning Board to commission.

Hepatitis: Health Services

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to publish a funded hepatitis action plan in a similar format to that used in Scotland. [24369]

Anne Milton: Professor Martin Lombard, national clinical director for liver disease, is currently leading the Department's programme of work to support the national health service in responding to liver disease in England, of which viral hepatitis is a factor. The Department will then publish a public consultation on proposals.

Lambert Eaton Syndrome

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the NHS *(a)* in total and *(b)* per patient of the substitution of Firdapse® for 3,4 diaminopyridine for the treatment of patients with Lambert Eaton syndrome in 2011-12. [23568]

Mr Simon Burns: The estimated cost to the NHS (secondary care in England) of the substitution of Firdapse® for 3,4 diaminopyridine for patients with Lambert Eaton syndrome in 2011-12 is as follows:

(a) In total—£9,768,668 (excluding VAT); and

(b) Per patient—£44,000 (excluding VAT).

Malnutrition

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients with malnutrition were *(a)* admitted to and *(b)* discharged from each hospital in England in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [23697]

Anne Milton: A table which provides a count of admissions and last (discharge) episodes in and out of hospital where there was a primary or secondary diagnosis of malnutrition broken down by hospital provider from 2007-08 to 2009-10 has been placed in the Library.

Note that admissions and discharges do not represent the number of people, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

Mental Health Services

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 2 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 775W, on mental health services, when he expects to publish his *(a)* mental health strategy and *(b)* public health White Paper. [23818]

Paul Burstow: On 2 September I announced the beginning of work on reshaping the mental health strategy which will have the twin aims of promoting and sustaining good mental health and well-being in the wider population and improving the quality of existing services for people across the full range of mental health problems. We expect to publish the strategy in the new year.

Improving public health is at the core of this Government's health policy and we will make clear our priorities in this area in the Public Health White Paper later this year.

Myasthenia Gravis

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when he last met the Myasthenia Gravis Association; and what the agenda was of that meeting; [23578]

(2) whether he plans to take steps to raise the level of public awareness of the condition Myasthenia Gravis; [23579]

(3) what recent estimate he has made of the number of people who have Myasthenia Gravis who are *(a)* under 18, *(b)* between 18 and 30, *(c)* between 31 and 40, *(d)* between 41 and 50, *(e)* between 51 and 60 and *(f)* over 60 years; [23582]

(4) what recent estimate he has made of the number of people of each sex who have been diagnosed with Myasthenia Gravis; [23584]

(5) how many specialist nurses there are for patients with Myasthenia Gravis in each NHS trust. [23585]

Paul Burstow: Detailed information on myasthenia gravis has been made available on the NHS Choices website at:

http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/myasthenia-gravis/Pages/Introduction.aspx

This information, suitable for those newly diagnosed and health professionals, covers the diagnosis, symptoms, and treatments for this rare condition. More detailed information, suitable for clinicians, is available on the NHS Evidence website at:

http://www.evidence.nhs.uk/search.aspx?t=myasthenia+gravis

It is estimated that around 6,000 people in the United Kingdom have myasthenia gravis. No age, or sex, breakdown for people with myasthenia gravis has been made.

The number of specialist nurses for people with myasthenia gravis is not collected centrally.

I have had no meeting with the Myasthenia Gravis Association.

NHS

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 1 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 649W, on North West Strategic Health Authority: redundancy, when he expects to publish the impact assessment of the Government's consultations on changes to the NHS. [23719]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government published an analytical strategy on 12 July 2010 outlining how we would develop the impact assessment for the reforms in the White Paper, "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS", and its accompanying consultation documents. We intend to publish an impact assessment for all the proposals that require primary legislation in the forthcoming Health Bill.

NHS: Drugs

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the supply of *(a)* unlicensed and *(b)* patented drugs which hold a marking authorisation. [23571]

Mr Simon Burns: In the United Kingdom medicines for human use are regulated by the Medicines Act 1968 and supporting regulations which aim to protect patient health. Before a medicine can be marketed in the UK, a number of licences are required. The product itself must have a licence called a 'marketing authorisation' unless an exemption applies. In addition, the companies that are involved in all stages of the manufacture (including importation) and distribution of the product need to hold an appropriate licence.

A marketing authorisation is granted following an assessment of the safety, quality and efficacy of a medicinal product. Marketing authorisations can be specific to an European Union member state, or apply across all EU member states. The regulatory requirements for marketing authorisations are defined at a European level. In the UK the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency is responsible for the assessment of medicinal products for human use, and contributes towards the work of the European Medicines Agency in this area.

In the UK the provision for the use of an unlicensed medicinal product is provided for by way of an exemption from the requirement for a marketing authorisation. In the interests of public health this exemption is narrowly drawn because these products, unlike products holding a marketing authorisation, will not have been assessed and approved against the criteria of safety, quality and efficacy.

The use of an unlicensed medicinal product can only take place to fulfil the special clinical needs of the patient, where those needs cannot be met by an authorised medicinal product. The "special clinical needs" in such a situation must be of the patient, rather than due to considerations such as cost.

In the UK it is for a doctor's clinical judgment as to which medicinal products they prescribe for their patient. A doctor should always consider using an authorised medicinal product first if available. Decisions such as the use of an unlicensed medicine need to be made in discussion with the patient concerned.

NHS: Finance

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the likely effects on discharges from the NHS of reductions in Government funding for local authorities. [23604]

Paul Burstow: The spending review recognises the importance of social care in protecting most vulnerable in society. In recognition of the pressures on the social care system in a challenging fiscal climate, the coalition Government have allocated an additional £2 billion by 2014-15 to support the delivery of social care. This means, with an ambitious programme of efficiency, that there is enough funding available both to protect people's access to services and deliver new approaches to improve quality and outcomes.

We have achieved this by:

The NHS transferring some funding from the health capital budget to health revenue, to be spent on measures that support social care, which also benefits health. This funding will be up to £1 billion in 2014-15;

Additional grant funding, rising to £1 billion by 2014-15, will be made available for social care. This funding will be allocated in addition to the Department's existing social care grants, which will rise in line with inflation. Total grant funding from the Department for social care will reach £2.4 billion by 2014-15. In order to support local flexibility and to reduce administrative burdens, this funding will go to authorities through the Revenue Support Grant.

NHS: Standards

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms are in place to monitor *(a)* waiting times in the NHS and *(b)* the accountability of NHS bodies for timely access to consultation and treatment; and if he will make a statement. [23669]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department collects and publishes monthly data on the time patients wait from referral to start of treatment. The latest national statistics data for the month of August 2010 are shown in the following tables.

The NHS constitution includes the patient right

> "to access services within maximum waiting times, or for the National Health Service to take all reasonable steps to offer you a range of alternative providers if this is not possible".

Commissioners have a legal duty to commission services that meet maximum waiting times standards and to offer redress to patients who wait longer if they request it. Commissioners are able to enforce the clauses related to waiting times with their providers through the NHS standard contracts.

Monthly referral to treatment (RTT) waiting times

August 2010 commissioner-based data — RTT waiting times for admitted pathways completed during the month (on an adjusted basis)

Treatment Function	*Total number of completed pathways (all)*	*Total number of completed pathways (with a known clock start)*	*Average (median) waiting time (in weeks)*	*95th percentile waiting time (in weeks)*	*Percentage within 18 weeks*
General Surgery	40,355	40,306	7.6	19.6	93.6
Urology	19,639	19,611	6.8	20.0	93.4
Trauma and Orthopaedics	51,483	51,448	11.7	23.7	88.5
Ear, nose and throat	17,333	17,323	10.4	20.6	92.3
Ophthalmology	38,328	38,306	9.9	18.8	94.2
Oral Surgery	17,544	17,544	11.8	22.8	89.8
Neurosurgery	2,123	2,113	8.6	21.9	92.1
Plastic Surgery	11,059	11,043	7.7	20.4	92.8
Cardiothoracic Surgery	2,101	2,087	6.3	18.3	94.8
General Medicine	5,256	5,253	3.5	14.2	99.1
Gastroenterology	9,150	9,148	4.3	14.9	98.7
Cardiology	8,520	8,462	6.1	17.5	96.2
Dermatology	6,728	6,727	6.6	17.5	96.9
Thoracic Medicine	1,236	1,235	3.5	14.7	99.4
Neurology	840	827	4.0	16.8	97.7
Rheumatology	1,740	1,740	3.0	14.7	99.4
Geriatric Medicine	326	326	0.9	14.2	99.4
Gynaecology	26,130	26,120	6.2	17.8	95.9
Other	28,393	28,235	5.9	18.7	94.6
Total	288,284	287,854	8.3	20.0	93.2

August 2010 commissioner returns — RTT times for completed non-admitted pathways

Treatment function	*Total number of completed pathways (all)*	*Total number of completed pathways (with a known clock start)*	*Average (median) waiting time (in weeks)*	*95th percentile waiting time (in weeks)*	*Percentage within 18 weeks*
General Surgery	59,973	59,962	3.5	15.8	97.4
Urology	26,275	26,256	5.2	16.5	97.0
Trauma and Orthopaedics	89,765	89,740	5.1	16.4	97.0
Ear, nose and throat	61,914	61,901	5.5	15.4	97.8
Ophthalmology	88,603	88,501	5.5	15.1	97.8
Oral Surgery	31,510	31,505	6.3	17.4	96.5
Neurosurgery	3,440	3,430	7.4	17.5	95.8
Plastic Surgery	9,052	9,047	4.2	15.7	97.6
Cardiothoracic Surgery	973	973	4.4	16.1	98.0
General Medicine	27,363	27,356	3.7	14.4	98.7
Gastroenterology	20,022	20,005	5.7	16.6	97.1
Cardiology	34,980	34,965	5.1	14.8	98.3
Dermatology	62,075	62,034	5.9	14.1	98.7
Thoracic Medicine	15,465	15,443	5.0	14.9	98.6
Neurology	21,765	21,741	7.3	15.9	97.4
Rheumatology	20,050	20,043	6.5	14.1	98.7
Geriatric Medicine	11,075	11,074	3.4	13.4	99.3
Gynaecology	56,540	56,471	3.8	14.1	98.3
Other	236,579	236,346	1.8	12.8	98.7
Total	877,419	876,793	4.4	15.0	98.0

Note:

Median and 95th percentile times are calculated from aggregate data, rather than patient level data, and therefore are only estimates of the position on average waits.

Physiology: Regulation

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on the statutory regulation of clinical physiologists; and whether he has undertaken an impact assessment of such regulation. [24530]

Anne Milton: Ministers are currently considering, within the context of the Government's wider health strategy, whether to regulate healthcare scientists, including clinical physiologists, and how it might be done.

A robust evidence-based cost-benefit risk analysis will be undertaken to inform the appropriate model of regulation for the healthcare science work force, including clinical physiologists.

Primary Care Trusts

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms he plans to establish to ensure that groups of GPs meet their financial commitments following the abolition of primary care trusts. [22516]

Mr Simon Burns: Under our proposals for general practitioner (GP) commissioning, practice level commissioning budgets will be allocated directly to GP commissioning consortiums. Each consortium will have the responsibility to decide how best to use these resources to meet the health care needs of their patients. Consortiums will also have the duty to ensure that their expenditure does not exceed their allocated resources, for which they will be accountable to the NHS Commissioning Board.

The detailed mechanisms that will be established to ensure GP commissioning consortiums meet their financial commitments will be developed as part of the financial framework for the proposed new system.

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his timescale is for the abolition of primary care trusts. [23910]

Paul Burstow: As set out in the Department's business plan, published on 8 November 2010, the Government have proposed that primary care trusts will be abolished in April 2013, subject to legislation being brought before Parliament.

Primary Health Care

Mr Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to take steps to ensure that GP consortia include pharmacists in their decision-making process in respect of the delivery of primary care. [23609]

Mr Simon Burns: General practitioner (GP) consortia will commission the great majority of national health service services on behalf of patients. Consortia will not be responsible for commissioning primary medical services, which will be the responsibility of the NHS Commissioning Board, but consortia will become increasingly influential in driving up the quality of general practice.

GP consortia will be able to involve specialist expertise in the commissioning of services as they see fit. Effective GP commissioning will require the full range of clinical and professional input alongside that of local people. Hospital doctors, nurses, pharmacists, allied health professionals and others all have a vital role to play and a real opportunity to develop services and improve the health outcomes of their local populations. Consortia will need to ensure that they have access to and draw upon the necessary expertise of those working in health and social care to ensure that they have the most appropriate specialist input into their commissioning decisions.

Radiation Exposure

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* national and *(b)* local agreements there are in relation to the radiation dose uptake limitation system adopted by each ambulance service when attending a radiation emergency at each of the nuclear powered submarine operational berths maintained by the Ministry of Defence as required by Regulation 14 of the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2001. [23635]

Anne Milton: The Department has recently published "The ambulance service guidance on dealing with radiological incidents and emergencies", a copy of which has been placed in the Library. This document provides guidance on the management of staff safety while enhancing patient care. This applies to all types of radiological incidents, including those sites covered by the Ministry of Defence Nuclear Accident Response Organisation.

The ambulance guidance is supported by a newly created capability of ambulance officers within trusts, who have completed an ambulance radiation protection supervisor (RPS) course run by the Health Protection Agency (HPA). These officers are supported by a 24 hours a day, seven days a week ambulance radiation protection advisor service (RPA), provided by the HPA. To date, 78 officers have been trained, with a further four more courses planned for this financial year.

Social Services

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what mechanism the additional funding for adult social care announced in the comprehensive spending review will be allocated to local authorities. [23948]

Paul Burstow: The spending review recognises the importance of social care in protecting the most vulnerable in society. In recognition of the pressures on the social care system in a challenging local government settlement, the coalition Government have allocated an additional £2 billion by 2014-15 to support the delivery of social care. This means, with an ambitious programme of efficiency, that there is enough funding available both to protect people's access to services and deliver new approaches to improve quality and outcomes.

We have achieved this in two ways:

The NHS will transfer some funding from the health capital budget to health revenue, to be spent on measures that support social care, which also benefits health. This funding will rise to £1 billion in 2014-15, and will promote improved joint working between the health and social care systems. Later this year, the new operating framework will set out specific primary care trust (PCT) allocations that they will transfer to local authorities for spending on social care services to benefit health, and to improve overall health gain. PCTs and local authorities will need to work together to agree jointly appropriate areas for social care investment, with a shared analysis of need and a common agreement on the outcomes to be met.

Additional grant funding, rising to £1 billion by 2014-15, will be made available for social care. This funding will be allocated in addition to the Department's existing social care grants, which will rise in line with inflation. Total grant funding from the Department for social care will reach £2.4 billion by 2014-15. In order to support local flexibility and to reduce administrative burdens, this funding will go to authorities through the revenue support grant.

Varicose Veins: Health Services

Greg Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many patients in each strategic health authority area were treated for varicose veins by *(a)* vein stripping open surgery, *(b)* endovenous laser treatment, *(c)* radiofrequency ablation, *(d)* foam sclerotherapy and *(e)* using a vascular closure device in the NHS in each of the last five years; [23087]

(2) how many patients in each strategic health authority area treated for varicose veins *(a)* required an overnight stay using surgery or laser under anaesthetic, *(b)* were day patients after surgery or laser under anaesthetic or (c) received (i) laser or radiofrequency under tumescent local anaesthesia and (ii) sclerotherapy without any anaesthesia and office-based correction without overnight admission in each of the last five years. [23088]

Mr Simon Burns: The available information requested has been placed in the Library. Data are not available prior to 2006-07 for endovenous laser treatment, radiofrequency ablation, foam sclerotherapy, using a vascular closure device and combined varicose vein procedures as time series for these procedures only date back to 2006-07. Data may not be comparable with previous similar responses due to changes in clinical coding methodology.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

BBC

John McDonnell: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent meetings he has had with the Director-General of the BBC; and whether the matter of pensions was discussed at those meetings. [24715]

The Deputy Prime Minister: The Deputy Prime Minister publishes details of his external meetings on a quarterly basis. Officials have meetings with a wide range of organisations and individuals on a range of subjects.

Rosyth Dockyard

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many *(a)* politically-appointed advisers, *(b)* civil servants and *(c)* press officers accompanied him and the Secretary of State for Scotland on the visit to Rosyth Dockyard on Tuesday 19 October; how many cars were used in Scotland to take the party to Rosyth Dockyard; what the cost was of the (i) flights and (ii) use of cars for the visit; and from which departmental budgets these costs were met. [24610]

The Deputy Prime Minister: The Deputy Prime Minister was accompanied by one special adviser, and three civil servants (including one press officer). The Secretary of State for Scotland was accompanied by one special adviser and two civil servants (including one press officer).

All travel was arranged in accordance with the Ministerial Code and civil service guidelines. The Ministers' costs were met by their respective Departments.

The cost of the Deputy Prime Minister's domestic travel will be published as part of the Operating Cost Statement of the Cabinet Office Annual Report and Accounts at the end of the financial year.

Voting Rights: Prisoners

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the evidential basis is for his Department's estimate of potential losses arising from compensation claims relating to prisoner voting rights. [23550]

Mr Harper: As I indicated to the House on 2 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 771-79, a number of prisoners have brought legal cases against Her Majesty's Government in the domestic and Strasbourg courts. The estimate of the potential damages liability against Her Majesty's Government reflects the amounts claimed by prisoners and the size of the prison population who might seek to make claims. The Government are defending these cases.

TREASURY

Government Borrowing

18. **Claire Perry:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with the Governor of the Bank of England on the relationship between changes in market interest rates and levels of Government borrowing. [23981]

Mr Hoban: The Bank of England's November Inflation Report stated that:

> "Market contacts reported that the formation of a new UK government and the announcement of its plans for fiscal consolidation had reduced the perceived risks associated with holding UK gilts."

Comprehensive Spending Review

19. **Hywel Williams:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment has been made of the likely effects on HM Revenue and Customs' tax enquiry services for the public of the outcome of the comprehensive spending review. [23982]

Mr Gauke: HMRC is currently reviewing options for delivery of the tax inquiry services it provides through its network of inquiry centres, contact centres and online over the next spending review period. HMRC will focus on providing services that are both cost-effective and meet the needs of its customers.

Working Tax Credit

20. **Alison McGovern:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of households with earnings between £12,000 and £30,000 per year whose working tax credit payments will be reduced as a result of the implementation of proposals in the comprehensive spending review. [23983]

Justine Greening: 775,000 and 810,000 households with incomes between £12,000 and £30,000 and receiving working tax credits will receive a reduced working tax credit payment in 2011-12 and 2012-13 respectively as a result of the comprehensive spending review.

21. **Mr Davidson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the average reduction in working tax credits for households on incomes between £12,000 and £30,000 per annum resulting from implementation of proposals contained in the comprehensive spending review in the Spending Review period. [23984]

Justine Greening: Households with incomes between £12,000 and £30,000 and receiving working tax credits will receive a reduced working tax credit payment of £210 and £290 in 2011-12 and 2012-13 respectively as a result of the comprehensive spending review.

Child Benefit

22. **Paul Blomfield:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of households which will be eligible for child benefit following implementation of the proposals contained in the comprehensive spending review. [23985]

Mr Gauke: It is estimated that around 6 million households will be eligible for child benefit following implementation of the proposals contained in the comprehensive spending review.

Mr Tom Harris: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of households that will be eligible for child benefit once the proposals made in the spending review have been implemented. [23966]

Danny Alexander: It is estimated that around 6 million households will be eligible for child benefit following implementation of the proposals contained in the comprehensive spending review.

Redundancy and Retraining Costs

23. **Tony Lloyd:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the Exchequer of redundancy and retraining requirements arising from implementation of proposals contained in the comprehensive spending review. [23986]

Danny Alexander: The total cost of work force reforms will depend on the decisions of significant numbers of public sector employers across the country. Detailed decisions regarding the number of redundancies and the associated costs that may be required have yet to be finalised in most cases, and it would not be appropriate for the Treasury to speculate on any aggregate numbers.

Staff Bonuses: Banks

24. **Mr Russell Brown:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he plans to take to encourage banks to reduce the amounts they award in staff bonuses. [23987]

Mr Hoban: The Government have taken decisive action to tackle unacceptable bank bonuses. The Financial Services Authority (FSA) is revising its remuneration code and new rules will be in place by 1 January 2011. In addition, the Government have introduced a levy that incentivises less risky banking activities and will continue to investigate the costs and benefits of a financial activities tax. In combination, these and other measures will ensure remuneration is consistent with effective risk management and high earning employees and other significant risk takers will not receive all their bonuses in cash while leaving their shareholders, and potentially the taxpayer, exposed to the long-term risks they take.

Crown Currency Exchange

Helen Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate HM Revenue and Customs has made of the liability for unpaid taxes arising from the entry into administration of the Crown Currency Exchange Ltd. [23718]

Mr Gauke: Section 18 of the Commissioners of Revenue and Customs Act 2005 does not permit HM Revenue and Customs to comment on the affairs of individual customers.

Jack Lopresti: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will investigate the activities of the Crown Currency Exchange; and if he will bring forward proposals to increase the effectiveness of regulation in the currency exchange sector. [23816]

Mr Hoban: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 8 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 91W.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information he received from the Financial Services Authority on the *(a)* entry into administration and *(b)* outstanding liabilities of Crown Currency Exchange. [24368]

Mr Hoban: The Financial Services Authority (FSA) is not responsible for the administration of Crown Currency Exchange or its outstanding liabilities.

The administrators are reviewing the trading operations of Crown Currency Exchange, its financial position and the conduct of its directors. Once the administrators have reported, the Government will look closely at this case to see what lessons need to be learned from the failure of the company.

Government Departments: Waste

Conor Burns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department has taken to ensure that the commitments made by Government departments to reduce their expenditure through waste reduction are met. [23710]

Danny Alexander: The Government's reforms to devolve power away from Whitehall mean that central Government's administrative functions will become smaller and more strategic:

> The administrative budgets of central Whitehall and its arms length bodies (ALB) will be reduced by 34% over the Spending Review period, saving £5.9 billion a year by 2014-15 so that resources can be focused on frontline services.

The number of ALBs across Government will be radically reduced. 118 will be merged and a further 192 will cease to be public bodies with their functions either being brought back into Government, devolved or abolished.

Central government functions will be subject to a tough new efficiency regime, monitored and supported by the new Efficiency and Reform Group in the Cabinet Office. This will drive savings in operational overheads. Key measures include:

Central mandation of commodity procurement, with centrally negotiated deals available to local government as well

Stronger scrutiny processes for major projects to ensure they will deliver on time and to budget

A more coordinated approach to supplier management to ensure Government act as a single client with key suppliers

A new system of national property controls across the central civil and operational estate.

The Efficiency and Reform Group have already made good progress; their contract renegotiations are expected to deliver £800 million of savings this year and 300 ICT projects have been reviewed with Cabinet Office working with departments to stop or de-scope projects worth £1 billion.

Higher Education

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what research his Department has *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* evaluated on the relationship between university enrolment and economic productivity. [23291]

Danny Alexander: The Government recognise the key role that higher education plays in supporting economic growth and productivity, not only through the skills of graduates but also the research and innovation activities of higher education institutions. It keeps the available evidence under regular review.

CABINET OFFICE

Business: Procurement

Karen Lumley: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment his Department has made of the effects of the implementation of the proposals of the comprehensive spending review on the capacity of *(a)* small and medium-sized enterprises and *(b)* large companies to participate in the procurement process for government contracts. [23559]

Mr Hurd: We want to make public procurement easier for suppliers of all sizes by taking bureaucracy and delays out of the process.

On 1 November I announced a series of measures to make it easier for small firms and organisations to do business with Government. These included a 'Lean' study looking at causes of delay in the procurement process and action to speed up the process.

We have also initiated work to centralise the procurement of common goods and services across Government, using our combined purchasing power to get the best value for money. This will provide a much simpler mechanism for suppliers to engage with Government.

We want public services to be delivered in the most efficient and effective way by a range of providers including public, private and voluntary and community organisations. To this end we have been seeking industry views on innovative solutions to deliver better services.

Civil Service Live Conference

Robert Halfon: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what estimate he has made of the *(a)* quantity and *(b)* cost of (i) alcohol and (ii) non-alcoholic beverages consumed at Civil Service Live in each year since it was established; [23771]

(2) what contracts his Department has let for each Civil Service Live event; and what process has been used to select successful bidders for each. [23812]

Mr Hurd: Civil Service Live events are owned and managed by Dods (the publisher of Civil Service World). The Cabinet Office does not hold information on the quantity and cost of beverages consumed at the events and neither has it employed contractors to manage CS Live events.

For further information on CS Live events, I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 15 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 635W.

Departmental Lobbying

Robert Halfon: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much his Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent from the public purse on influencing public policy through *(a)* employing external (i) public affairs companies, (ii) strategic consultancies and (iii) corporate communications firms, *(b)* external marketing and *(c)* other activities in each year since its inception. [23768]

Mr Hurd: Since their inception, the Cabinet Office's agencies and non-departmental public bodies, have not spent any money from the public purse on influencing public policy through *(a)* employing external (i) public affairs companies, (ii) strategic consultancies and (iii) corporate communications firms, *(b)* external marketing and *(c)* other activities.

Robert Halfon: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which of his Department's non-departmental public bodies have undertaken activities to influence public policy for which they engaged *(a)* public affairs and *(b)* public relations consultants in each year since 1997; and at what monetary cost in each such year. [23790]

Mr Hurd: Since 1997, the Cabinet Office's non-departmental public bodies have not undertaken any activities to influence public policy for which they engaged *(a)* public affairs and *(b)* public relations consultants.

Departmental Offices

Simon Kirby: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps his Department is taking to reduce the costs of Ministerial offices; and if he will make a statement. [23804]

Mr Hurd: The Department keeps under review the staffing of its ministerial offices to ensure the most efficient and cost effective operation. In addition, none of the Cabinet Office ministerial team have an allocated car and driver.

Government Departments: Procurement

Mr Russell Brown: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what guidance his Department provides on the cost criteria for the tendering of government contracts. [24286]

Mr Hurd: UK Government procurement policy requires that contracts be awarded on the basis of the best value for money over the life of the contract. The Office of Government Commerce, now part of the Efficiency and Reform Group in the Cabinet Office, has published on its website a range of tools to support procurers in achieving this.

As part of our drive to improve efficiency and reduce waste in the procurement process, we have commissioned a 'Lean' study looking at causes of cost and delay and action to address them.

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many contracts have been identified as not delivering value for money since the announcement that his Department will collate monthly data on the use of consultants by central Government in May 2010; what the monetary value of such contracts is; what estimate he has made of the number of full-time consultant posts involved in such contracts; and how many such contracts have been cancelled. [24310]

Mr Hurd: The Cabinet Offices does not collect data across central Government on the value delivered by individual consultancy contracts, or any other types of contract. It is a matter for departments to assess whether their individual contracts deliver the value as identified in the associated business case.

A number of specific consultancy contracts have been terminated, or scaled back, in direct response to the major programme review and ICT moratorium which is currently in place. This has resulted in expenditure with consultancy firms reducing by more than 50% on the same time last year across departments.

The Cabinet Office has published tools to assist departments in developing consultancy business cases and conducting post assignment reviews in order to measure value. Details are to be found on the Office of Government Commerce website.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps the Office of Government Commerce plans to take to ensure that public authorities undertaking major tendering activities have taken into account its guidance on tendering; and whether it plans to take steps to ensure that there is independent verification that public bodies have complied with such guidance. [24316]

Mr Hurd: Since coming to office the Government have taken steps to improve the efficiency and quality of government procurement. We have taken a grip on major procurement projects; initiated work to centralise the procurement of common goods and services across government; and made a start on streamlining public procurement processes.

We expect those conducting government procurement to comply with mandatory requirements, but we have no plans to monitor individual public procurement exercises; nor do we intend to establish independent verification that public bodies are complying with OGC tools and good practice.

Institute for Fiscal Studies

Robert Halfon: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much his Department spent on services provided by the Institute for Fiscal Studies in each of the last 10 years. [23389]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office has made the following payments to the Institute for Fiscal Studies in the last 10 years

	£
2000-01	818.75
2001-02	105.75
2002-03	350.25
2003-04	172.25
2004-05	250.00
2005-06	0
2006-07	0
2007-08	0
2008-09	2,415.01
2009-10	6,377.30

Legal Services Commission: Procurement

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many complaints have been made to the Office of Government Commerce on the tendering activities of the Legal Services Commission in 2010; and under what *(a)* procedures and *(b)* timescale those complaints are dealt with. [24317]

Mr Hurd: The Office of Government Commerce, which is now part of the Efficiency and Reform Group in the Cabinet Office, has received one complaint against the Legal Services Commission in 2010. This is currently being handled by the Supplier Feedback Service.

Ministers: Conduct

Mr Bone: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office to which hon. Members the provisions of the Ministerial Code of Conduct apply. [24362]

Mr Maude: The provisions of the Ministerial Code applies to Government Ministers.

Parliamentary Private Secretaries

Mr Bone: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which hon. Members have been appointed as Parliamentary Private Secretaries. [24363]

Mr Maude: A list of Parliamentary Private Secretaries will be published shortly.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 17 November 2010

SCOTLAND

Daylight Saving Bill

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether his Department has undertaken an impact assessment in respect of the Daylight Saving Bill. [24635]

Michael Moore: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is responsible for matters relating to summer time. I have written to a number of organisations representing groups most likely to be affected by any change to summer time, to seek their views. As the Prime Minister has already made clear, there can be no change to existing policy without the agreement of all parts of the United Kingdom, including Scotland. That agreement is not in place.

Ministerial Policy Advisers

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many special advisers he *(a)* has appointed since his appointment and *(b)* plans to appoint in the next 12 months. [24140]

Michael Moore: Since my appointment as Secretary of State for Scotland, I have appointed one special adviser. There is only one special adviser post in the Scotland Office and, therefore, I have no plans to make any further appointments in the next 12 months.

Official Hospitality: Scotland

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what *(a)* gifts and *(b)* corporate entertainment and hospitality (i) he, (ii) other Ministers and (iii) officials in his Department have received on each date since 11 May 2010. [24132]

Michael Moore: The Government publishes a record of all gifts and hospitality received by Ministers worth over £140 in accordance with Government's transparency agenda on:

www.data.gov.uk

All gifts and hospitality received by officials valued over £15 are recorded. In the period since 11 May, one official attended a stakeholders' dinner organised by the Lloyds Banking Group on 30 September, and two officials attended the annual Scottish Financial Enterprise (SFE) awards dinner on 28 October 2010, one by invitation of SFE and the other by invitation of Standard Life.

Personnel

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many full-time equivalent staff at each civil service grade are employed in the private office of each Minister in his Department. [24137]

Michael Moore: Under the Government's transparency agenda, we are required to publish our Organogram. The Scotland Office's Organogram is now available centrally and from our website via the following link:

http://www.scotlandoffice.gov.uk/scotlandoffice/14464.html

This Organogram contains the requested staffing information regarding our combined ministerial private office.

Scottish Parliament

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what plans he has to visit the Scottish Parliament. [24139]

Michael Moore: As previously offered, I am happy to attend the Scottish Parliament immediately following the Queen's Speech or on other occasions as agreed.

Serving Scotland Better: Scotland

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the First Minister of Scotland on the recommendations of the report Serving Scotland Better: Scotland and the United Kingdom in the 21st Century, published by the Commission on Scottish Devolution. [24136]

Michael Moore: I discussed the recommendations of the Commission on Scottish Devolution with the First Minister of Scotland on 16 September 2010. I have also engaged with other Scottish Ministers on the Government's coalition commitment to implement the recommendations of the Commission on Scottish Devolution.

PRIME MINISTER

BBC

John McDonnell: To ask the Prime Minister what recent meetings he has had with the Director-General of the BBC; and whether the matter of pensions was discussed at those meetings. [24713]

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Prime Minister what recent meetings *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers in his Office have had with the Director-General of the BBC; and whether pensions were discussed at those meetings. [25014]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the list of official meetings by Ministers with external organisations which is published on a quarterly basis, in accordance with the Ministerial Code. Officials and special advisers have meetings with a wide range of organisations and individuals on a range of subjects.

TRANSPORT

Bus Services

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what estimate he has made of the proportion of bus services that are fitted with automatic vehicle location equipment; [24576]

(2) how much of the bus service operators grant was allocated to the fitting of automatic vehicle location equipment in 2010-11; and how much will be allocated to these purposes in each of the next three years; [24577]

(3) whether he has plans to make available composite performance information derived from automatic vehicle location equipment funded from the public purse to *(a)* local transport authorities, *(b)* traffic commissioners, *(c)* Passenger Focus and *(d)* bus passengers for the purposes of enabling them to monitor the punctuality of bus services. [24578]

Norman Baker: In 2009-10, 55% of public service vehicles in Great Britain were fitted with automatic vehicle location (AVL) equipment. However, no estimate is available of the proportion of bus services that are operated by vehicles fitted with such equipment.

In April 2010, the Department for Transport introduced an incentive payment to the Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG) to support the use of AVL systems in the operation of local bus services. There is no fixed budget for this incentive, as the amount paid each year will depend on the number of buses which meet the eligibility criteria. Since April 2010, the Department has paid around £33,000 for this incentive. We expect that this will increase as more operators submit valid claims. The amount of grant paid over the next three years will depend on the take-up of the incentive by operators.

The Department's approach to improving bus punctuality is based on effective local partnership. Working with local authorities, the Traffic Commissioners, operators and Passenger Focus, the Department has developed a new punctuality regime which recognises the role that local authorities and operators should both play in tackling poor punctuality. The aim is to encourage local authorities and operators to share punctuality data and other relevant information on a voluntary basis to underpin their agreed approach to managing local services. More generally, the Department will work with bus operators to seek to make information on bus punctuality more widely available, but I have no plans to require the publication of composite performance information derived from AVL equipment at present.

Intercity Express Programme

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what alternatives to the Intercity Express Programme are under evaluation by his Department. [17927]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport is evaluating alternatives to the Intercity Express Programme as follows:

refurbishing the existing rolling stock;

purchasing new electric trains, which would be hauled by diesel locomotives on sections of route that are not electrified; and

purchasing new electric trains and offering interchange, with passengers changing trains if travelling to non-electrified parts of the network.

The Department is also evaluating a revised proposal from Agility Trains for bi-mode trains.

Railways: Construction

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans the Government has for future capital funding for the proposed high-speed rail line to the city of Sheffield; and if he will make a statement. [24288]

Mr Philip Hammond: The settlement for the current spending review period includes the necessary funding to devise and consult on high speed rail lines to both Leeds and Manchester, including options for serving South Yorkshire. Construction will not begin in the current spending review period and capital funding for construction of the lines will be allocated in future spending reviews.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what evaluation his Department has undertaken of the Asset camera system. [24309]

Mike Penning: No evaluation has been undertaken of the Asset camera system by the Department for Transport. Evaluation of all enforcement equipment is subject to Home Office type approval, which may be granted after rigorous testing by the Home Office Scientific Development Branch (HOSDB).

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has contributed to the development of the Asset camera system. [24394]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport has not contributed to the development of the Asset camera system. The development of this camera will have been undertaken entirely by the manufacturer.

Transport for London: Finance

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with the Mayor of London on the budget for Transport for London. [24461]

Mrs Villiers: The Mayor and the Secretary of State had frequent discussions regarding Government funding for Transport for London in the run up to SR10, the outcomes of which are set out in the Secretary of State's letter to the Mayor dated 20 October 2010, published on the Department's website:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/spendingreview

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Bribery Act 2010

Dr Pugh: To ask the Attorney-General what assessment he has made of the use of the adequate procedures defence under the provisions of the Bribery Act 2010 by local government or NHS bodies. [24173]

The Attorney-General: The Bribery Act 2010 will come into force in April 2011. Joint legal guidance for prosecutors in the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) is currently being prepared. This guidance will address how the adequate procedures defence should be approached by prosecutors when it is raised. Prosecutors will also take into account the guidance on adequate procedures which will be issued by the Secretary of State for Justice as required by section 9 of the Act. The defence of adequate procedures applies to 'relevant commercial organisations' as defined under section 7 of the Act; whether any particular body falls within this definition will be considered on the facts in individual cases.

Crown Prosecution Service

Mr Gale: To ask the Attorney-General in how many and what proportion of cases prosecuted by the Crown Prosecution Service the defendant entered a not guilty plea at each stage of the prosecution and trial in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [24072]

The Attorney-General: The information requested is not recorded centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Central data do not record when a specific plea is entered. Central data will only show whether a guilty plea was entered before the start of a trial or after the start of a trial.

The Ministry of Justice publish some statistics in relation to non guilty pleas which can be found on their website at:

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/judicialandcourtstatistics.htm

Crown Prosecution Service: Leases

Mr Umunna: To ask the Attorney-General in respect of which properties rented for Crown Prosecution Service offices the lease will expire in the next two years. [24037]

The Solicitor-General: The following offices have lease expiries occurring between November 2010 and November 2012:

1. Stocklund House, Carlisle—January 2011
2. St Georges House, Wolverhampton—January 2011
3. St Leonards Road, Eastbourne—March 2011
4. Princess House, Swansea—September 2011
5. Beaumont House, Northampton—October 2011
6. Black Horse House, Eastleigh—November 2011
7. Rossmore House, Leamington Spa—February 2012
8. Sunlight House, Manchester—March 2012
9. Froomsgate House, Bristol—June 2012
10. Oxford House, Bournemouth—September 2012.

The lease at St Peters House, Derby, expired in March 2010. However we are continuing to occupy the site.

In addition to the offices above the following buildings have lease break options occurring over the next two years:

1. Blackpool—rolling six month break
2. Mansfield—March 2011
3. Birkenhead—April 2011 (exercised)
4. Harrogate—June 2011 (exercised)
5. Warrington—August 2011
6. Liverpool, Royal Liver Building—January 2012
7. Middlesbrough—March 2012
8. Brighton—October 2012.

The Department has agreements to occupy space which expire over the next two years with other Government Departments for the following sites:

1. Stocklund House, Carlisle—expired March 2009 (subject to Treasury approval will take new lease from landlord)
2. Riverside Chambers, Taunton—January 2011 (intend to take new Moto will expire 2016)
3. Lysnoweth, Truro—March 2011
4. Newgate House, Rochdale—March 2011
5. New Kings Beam House, Southwark—March 2011
6. Western Range, Southampton—March 2011
7. Ralli Quays, Salford—December 2011
8. Elvet House, Durham—March 2012
9. Heritage House, Grimsby—March 2012.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Olympic Games 2012

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport which training camps will be used for the London 2012 Olympics by *(a)* foreign and *(b)* domestic teams. [24421]

Hugh Robertson: A list of Olympic and Paralympic teams that have so far agreed to prepare in approved pre-Games training camps, within the UK, is published on the London2012 website at the following link:

http://www.london2012.com/documents/venue-documents/pre-games-training-camps-agreements.pdf

I am arranging for copies of the current list (date correct as of 28 October 2010) to be placed in the Libraries of the House.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

British Nationals Abroad: Bereavement

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) how much his Department spent on the provision of assistance to British nationals bereaved by murder and manslaughter overseas in 2009; [22475]

(2) what provision the Consular Directorate makes for UK nationals who have been bereaved by murder and manslaughter abroad; [22478]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The total cost of the provision of consular services in 2009-10 was £132 million. Because of the unique and individual circumstances surrounding the tragic cases of British Nationals bereaved by murder and manslaughter abroad, we are unable to identify the exact amount spent on the provision of assistance in these cases. We have records of 58 British nationals who were murdered or victims of manslaughter in 2009-10.

Consular Directorate does not have provision of funds to assist UK families who have been bereaved by murder and manslaughter abroad. However, Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials can help transfer money from friends and relatives in the UK to pay any necessary costs incurred in-country.

I am reviewing our assistance for victims of terrorist incidents overseas and their families and will submit a written ministerial statement shortly.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what process the Consular Directorate follows when contacted by a UK national who has been bereaved by murder and manslaughter abroad; and what support and services are offered those so bereaved. [22476]

Mr Jeremy Browne: A member of Consular staff will speak with a family representative to explain what support and assistance the Foreign and Commonwealth Office can offer the family. They will provide the family with copies of two Foreign and Commonwealth Office publications: Support for British nationals abroad guide

http://www.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/pdf/2855621/english

and the Guide for bereaved families

http://www.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/pdf/2855621/bereaved-families

which contain detailed information about the support and assistance available.

Christianity

Angie Bray: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on making representations on the treatment of Christians in countries where Christians are a minority religion to the governments of those countries. [24001]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government condemns all instances of violence and discrimination against individuals and groups because of their faith or belief, wherever they occur or whatever the religion of the individual or group concerned.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)'s overseas missions have a responsibility to monitor and raise human rights in their host countries. They routinely raise our concerns with host governments, including freedom of religion or belief when appropriate and have done so in relation to the persecution of Christians.

The FCO recently produced detailed policy advice for our overseas missions advising how to promote and protect freedom of religion or belief internationally. Drawn up with the guidance of think tanks, academics and non-governmental organisations, the toolkit advises officers on how to promote and protect the right to freedom of religion or belief. The toolkit and more information can be found at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/global-issues/human-rights/equality/freedom-religion/

European Union

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which proposals under consideration by any institution of the EU would involve a transfer of powers or competences from the UK to the EU; and if he will make a statement. [22055]

Mr Lidington: There are no formal proposals currently under consideration which would involve a transfer of power or competence from the UK to the EU. We have also promised that there will be no treaty change which transfers competence or power from the UK to the EU in the course of this Parliament.

Gaza: Human Rights

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of human rights abuses in Gaza. [24580]

Alistair Burt: Human rights organisations and other non-governmental organisations in Gaza are increasingly concerned about restrictions on their own activities and on the wider curtailing of personal freedoms.

We share these concerns, including regarding violent harassment of political opponents, violent retribution—including summary executions—against those Hamas deem collaborators with Israel, arbitrary arrests and detentions, torture and a crack down on women's freedom.

The UK calls on all Palestinian militants to take immediate and concrete steps towards the Quartet principles, unconditionally to release Gilad Shalit, who has been held in captivity for just under four years, and to end its interference with the operations of non-governmental organisations and UN agencies in Gaza.

Iceland: Whales

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Icelandic counterpart on whaling; and if he will make a statement. [24064]

Mr Lidington: The UK [illegible] not had any recent discussions with the Icelandic Foreign Ministry on whaling. Whaling is incompatible with EU membership. The UK continues to encourage Iceland to align itself as soon as possible with the EU's common position. Whaling will be discussed as part of Iceland's EU accession process under Chapter 27, Environment. We expect chapter negotiations to begin in spring 2011.

Kazakhstan: Human Rights

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who will lead the UK delegation to the 2010 Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe summit of heads of state of government in Astana; and whether they will raise concerns about the human rights situation in Kazakhstan at that meeting. [24637]

Mr Lidington: My right hon. Friend, the Deputy Prime Minister, will lead the UK delegation to the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe summit of heads of state of government in Astana. I will accompany him. Human rights issues are among the key topics we will raise at the summit, and in bilateral meetings with Kazakhstan and others.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the number of rocket attacks on Israeli citizens by *(a)* Islamic Jihad and *(b)* Hamas in 2010; and what assessment he has made of the likely implications of such attacks for the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. [24581]

Alistair Burt: According to the Israeli Defence Force since 1 January 2010 there have been 122 rockets and 87 mortars launched from Gaza at the state of Israel.

We have consistently condemned such acts of terrorism. It is clear that those concerned care more about damaging the peace process than about the lives of ordinary Palestinians.

Negotiations are vital for peace. We hope that leaders will stand firm in the face of such provocations.

Redundancy

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what estimate he has made of the number of redundancies arising from the spending reductions proposed in the comprehensive spending review in respect of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies; [21530]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of staff redundancy in each of the next four years. [21531]

Alistair Burt: I refer the hon. Member to my response of 15 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 632W.

Venezuela: Human Rights

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he *(a)* has taken since his appointment and *(b)* plans to take in the next six months at UN level in respect of human rights in Venezuela; and if he will make a statement. [21932]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We have not had discussions with the Secretary General of the United Nations on human rights in Venezuela. However, we do work closely with the UN on the ground. We have helped refugees on the Venezuela-Colombian border in joint projects with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and are in regular contact with them.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Claire Perry: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether an assessment has been made of the potential effects on the *(a)* mental and *(b)* physical health of children of the undertaking by a parent of military service in Afghanistan. [24364]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 16 November 2010]*: There are currently no plans to conduct a bespoke study into the potential effects on the mental and physical health of children whose parent is deployed on military service in Afghanistan. However, in addition to our Continuous Attitude Surveys, we have strong links with research communities in the UK and allied countries, all of which feed into and help us develop further our welfare policies. The King's Centre for Military Health Research is currently conducting a study to understand better the impact, both the benefits and drawbacks, of military life on the well-being of children of UK Service personnel. In particular the study, which is funded by the US Department of Defense, will examine whether children of military personnel who are suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder are disadvantaged as a result.

Armed Forces: Females

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what proportion of *(a)* Royal Navy and *(b)* Royal Air Force pilots flying (i) helicopters and (ii) aeroplanes were female in the latest period for which figures are available. [24446]

Mr Robathan: As at 1 October 2010, the number and proportion of Regular trained female pilots in the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force flying helicopter and fixed-wing aircraft was as follows:

	Total number of female pilots	*Female proportion of total number of pilots (percentage)*
Royal Navy		
Helicopters	5	[1]
Fixed Wing	*	[1]
Royal Air Force		
Helicopters	25	[1]
Fixed Wing	35	[1]

[1] Less than 5%.

1. Due to ongoing validation of data from the Joint Personnel Administration system, armed forces' data are provisional.

2. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 5 and '*'denotes a number less than 5.

3. Percentage based on small numbers present a disclosure risk and are therefore presented as 'less than 5%'.

Armed Forces: Manpower

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel he expects to be serving in each branch of the armed forces in each of the next five years. [24215]

Nick Harvey: The UK armed forces will be restructured to meet current and emerging threats. The Service Chiefs will set out over the coming months exactly how this restructuring will impact upon current manning levels.

As stated in the Strategic Defence and Security Review, we plan to make total reductions of around 17,000 service personnel by 2015. The Royal Navy will decrease by around 5,000 personnel to a total of around 30,000. The Army will decrease by around 7,000 personnel to a total of around 95,000. The RAF will decrease by around 5,000 personnel to a total of around 33,000.

Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* powers of authority and *(b)* responsibilities the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator has to undertake assessment and approval of any component of the Report of Assessment submitted by his Department when acting as operator as required by the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2001. [23632]

Mr Robathan: The Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator (DNSR) is granted authority and responsibility from the Secretary of State for Defence (via the Defence Nuclear Environment and Safety Board) for the regulation of nuclear and radiological safety, and environmental protection within the defence nuclear programmes.

As part of this, DNSR assesses and approves the Reports of Assessment produced by the Ministry of Defence before they are submitted to the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate in line with the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations (REPPIR) 2001.

Departmental Lobbying

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent from the public purse on influencing public policy through *(a)* employing external (i) public affairs companies, (ii) strategic consultancies and (iii) corporate communications firms, *(b)* external marketing and *(c)* other activities in each of the last 10 years. [23758]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence (MOD)'s on-Vote agencies, trading funds and non-departmental bodies have not sought to influence public policy through the engagement of external consultancy or other activities in the last 10 years. Any use of strategic consultancy tends to be focused on how the MOD's executive agencies and other bodies pursue their own purposes and objectives.

We employ external help only where we cannot do the work ourselves or can demonstrate value for money. We are making significant reductions in this activity this financial year as a result of the tighter controls introduced by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 24 May 2010.

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which of his Department's non-departmental public bodies have undertaken activities to influence public policy for which they engaged *(a)* public affairs and *(b)* public relations consultants in each year since 1997; and at what monetary cost in each such year. [23789]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence's non-departmental bodies have not sought to influence public policy through the engagement of external consultancy since 1997. We employ external help only where we cannot do the work ourselves or can demonstrate value for money.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 28 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 449W, on departmental official hospitality, if he will provide disaggregated information on the five most expensive hospitality events hosted by his Department in each of the last three financial years; and if he will make a statement. [23827]

Mr Robathan: Information on official entertainment is not held centrally in the format requested that allows individual events to be ranked by cost.

Expenditure on official entertainment is authorised and managed locally where it is aggregated and recorded against a single reporting code for official entertainment on our accounting systems. Disaggregated information at individual event level is therefore held locally by budget managers at the Ministry of Defence's establishments and units in the UK and overseas.

We have introduced fresh constraints on the approval of official entertainment events to drive down costs, the presumption being that official entertainment will be offered only exceptionally.

MOD Abbey Wood: Redundancy

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had on job losses amongst his Department's civilian staff at Abbey Wood; and what recent estimate he has made of the number of compulsory redundancies which will occur. [24437]

Mr Robathan: The Strategic Defence and Security Review stated that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) civilian workforce would decrease by 25,000 as the requirement for civilian support decreases in line with the development of new force structures, restructuring of defence capabilities, rationalisation of the defence estate and realisation of other front-line savings. But we have taken no decisions on where those changes will be made. Detailed proposals to deliver the changes will be made in consultation with the Department's trade unions as quickly as possible as further work is taken forward. It follows that we cannot yet say what the impact will be upon Abbey Wood or what level of redundancies might be needed, but the MOD is committed to achieving the reductions by voluntary means as far as possible.

Nuclear Submarines: Radiation

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) which submarine operational berths have been assessed by the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator as being in full compliance with the requirements of the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2001; [23626]

(2) whether his Department has conducted COSYMA modelling of the consequences of a release of radioactivity from a nuclear submarine berthed in Southampton; and what estimate his Department has made of the costs to the public purse of the emergency management and remedial actions which would be required in the event of an accident resulting in the release of radioactivity from a nuclear-powered submarine berthed at the Southampton operational berth; [23628]

(3) what mechanisms are in place to ensure that Royal Navy Fleet Command recognises the authority of the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator to *(a)* regulate submarine operations and *(b)* ensure compliance with its recommendations; [23629]

(4) by what date he expects each submarine operational berth assessed by the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator as not in full compliance with the requirements of the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2001 to be brought into full compliance with these regulations; [23630]

(5) whether the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII) was consulted on the recent emergency berthing of HMS Astute at the Loch Ewe operational berth; and under what conditions the NII permitted the berth to be used as an unlicensed emergency berth. [23631]

Mr Robathan: The Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator does not assess operational berths against the requirements of Radiation Emergency Preparedness and Public Information Regulations (REPPIR) 2001. This is the responsibility of the statutory regulator, which is the Health and Safety Executive-Nuclear Installation Inspectorate. All UK Operational Berths in use are fully compliant with REPPIR 2001. Any new berth would be subject to the full approval process as required by statutory regulations. Following her grounding there was no requirement for HMS ASTUTE to use the operational berth in Loch Ewe; she proceeded to Faslane under her own power.

The arrangements for the regulation of the Naval Nuclear Propulsion programme, together with the arrangements by which the Defence Nuclear Regulator ensures compliance with the regulatory requirements, are detailed in internal guidance Regulation of the Naval Nuclear Propulsion programme last updated in September 2010.

Code System from Maria (CSYMA) was used to estimate atmospheric release doses arising from the accident sequences identified in the 2008 Nuclear Plant Hazard Identification and Risk Evaluation and is used to underpin the production of Berth Safety Statement and Emergency Arrangements, but the analysis is not site specific.

There have been no specific costings for emergency management and remedial actions by the Ministry of Defence in the highly unlikely event of an accident resulting in the release of radioactivity from a nuclear-powered submarine berthed at Southampton. Cost benefit analysis methodologies are based on the Health and Safety Executive guidelines but are not site specific.

Strategic Defence and Security Review

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Secretary of State for Transport, *(b)* the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, *(c)* trade unions and *(d)* industry bodies on the likely effects of the outcomes of the Strategic Defence and Security Review on civil (i) manufacturing and (ii) transportation. [23683]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 12 November 2010]:* During the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) I had discussions with other Government Ministers, trade unions, and industry representatives on the industrial implications of the SDSR.

We now plan to enter into an extensive programme of negotiations in the coming months as part of the SDSR implementation process. This will run in parallel with us developing Green and White Papers on our Defence and Security Industrial and Technology Policy.

I have had no specific discussions with these parties on civil transportation. We will be conducting detailed investment appraisals as the SDSR is implemented, including on the civil sector and societal issues.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the likely effects of the outcomes of the Strategic Defence and Security Review on the defence estate in Northern Ireland. [24108]

Mr Robathan: No decision has yet been made on changes to the Defence estate (including that in Northern Ireland) or to the way it is managed.

The Ministry of Defence keeps its estate under continual review to ensure that it is of the right size and quality to meet operational needs. However, estate rationalisation arising from the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) has highlighted the need for a follow-on programme of work: 'SDSR—Estate Rationalisation and Withdrawing Troops from Germany' that could lead to a further reduction in the size of the estate and to lower running costs.

Unmanned Air Vehicles

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much funding his Department plans to allocate to the development of remotely-piloted aircraft capability in the period from 2010 to 2015. [23466]

Mr Robathan: We plan to spend around £400 million on the development of remotely-piloted air systems capability in the period from 2010 to 2015.

Warships

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what representations the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator made to the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate on the standard of the berth safety statement for the submarine operational berth at Southampton; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the correspondence between the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator and the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate on that matter. [23627]

Mr Robathan: The Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator (DNSR) submitted a technical assessment of the Ministry of Defence's 2008 Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations (REPPIR) 2001 submissions to the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate on 6 October 2008.

This technical assessment included all the submissions for MOD authorised sites and Operational Berths, including Southampton, and concluded that the submissions met the requirements of REPPIR 2001.

A copy of the technical assessment will be placed in the Library of the House following a review to identify whether any information needs to be withheld.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Floods: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the Environment Agency plans further to consult the public on its plans for the Water End Flood Alleviation scheme in York. [24352]

Richard Benyon: The Environment Agency issued a press release on 16 November confirming a public drop-in session to discuss the Water End Flood Alleviation Scheme. It will be held at St Barnabas School, York, on 1 December, between 3 pm and 7 pm. An invitation has also been sent to the hon. Member for York Central today. The Environment Agency will be delivering invitations to the local community on 19 November.

Incinerators: Health Hazards

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 25 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 128-29W, on waste disposal: health hazards, for what reasons it was decided that the Environment Agency should undertake a review of the health effects of combustion processes, including incineration, in light of the Health Protection Agency advice that studies of public health around modern, well-managed municipal waste incinerators are not recommended. [23871]

Richard Benyon: The Environment Agency regulates incinerators and other large combustion processes. The review referred to will provide additional evidence to underpin the agency's role in regulating industrial emissions. It will consider all large combustion processes and any potential effects on health. Emissions from waste incineration are included in the review, although they make up only a small proportion of the total emissions from combustion processes. By contrast, the Health Protection Agency 2009 report addresses emissions from incineration only.

Natural England: Pay

Martin Vickers: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many permanent staff employed by Natural England received an annual salary of more than £25,428 in the latest period for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [24292]

Richard Benyon: Natural England currently has 1,784 permanent staff (out of a total headcount of 2,640 staff) who are paid an annual equivalent salary of £25,428 or more.

Waste Management

Mr Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the merits of alternatives to energy from waste plants as part of her Department's waste disposal strategy. [23608]

Richard Benyon: The Government's approach to waste management, including energy from waste (EfW), is underpinned by the waste hierarchy, which ranks waste management methods in order of environmental preference. This means that for waste which cannot be re-used or recycled, recovery of energy is a preferable route, and that EfW is almost always preferable to landfill (unless analysis of the overall environmental impact, for specific types of waste, shows otherwise). The waste hierarchy will shortly become law through the revised Waste Framework Directive, which seeks to promote waste prevention, increase recycling, and ensure better use of resources, to protect human health and the environment. This will help to underpin the Government's vision of a zero waste economy.

A full review of waste policy is currently being carried out, due to report in spring 2011. The role of recovering energy from waste will be considered as part of the review.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

UN Women's Agency

13. **Fiona O'Donnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department plans to take in support of the developmental objectives of the UN women's agency in the next 12 months. [24348]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I have held recent discussions on this point with the Head of UN Women, Michelle Bachelet, and the UN Secretary-General. We are putting girls and women at the heart of British development policy. We will announce funding for UN Women when we have completed the Multilateral Aid Review.

Sri Lanka

14. **Robert Halfon:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's policy is on the provision of aid to Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement. [24349]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development's (DFID's) direct aid programme closed in 2006. In 2008, responding to needs arising from the conflict, DFID committed £13.5 million emergency humanitarian funding. This support ends in March 2011. On Wednesday my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for International Development, announced new support for landmine clearance. Over the next three years, Sri Lanka will be among those receiving assistance under this programme, helping those still displaced return home.

Refugees: Thai-Burma Border

15. **Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department is providing aid to refugees in encampments on the Thai-Burma border. [24350]

Mr Duncan: In 2010-11 the UK Government are providing £1.6 million to non-governmental organisations for food, housing and improved access to legal assistance for Burmese refugees in Thailand.

Africa: Overseas Aid

Richard Harrington: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he has taken to increase the level of technical assistance to developing countries in Africa; and whether he has assessed the merits of working together with Israel to provide technical assistance to such countries on climate farming. [24638]

Mr O'Brien: We are currently reviewing all our bilateral and multilateral programmes to ensure we focus our resources where we can get most impact. This includes a review of where aid is spent and the instruments used to deliver it. We will ensure that only the best development interventions receive support and will maximise value for money in DFID's development spend. Requirements for technical assistance are led by our country offices and co-ordinated with partner countries. Technical assistance can make a major contribution to poverty reduction. Final decisions will be made in good time to plan programmes for the next financial year.

The UK currently has no direct co-operation with Israel on international development. Israel has recently become a member of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and we hope Israel will consider joining the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC).

Caribbean: Infrastructure

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans his Department has to allocate funding to infrastructure programmes in respect in the Caribbean. [24028]

Mr Duncan: The current Department for International Development (DFID) programme in the Caribbean does not directly support infrastructure delivery. Through the core funding that DFID provides to institutions such as the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank, EU and others, the UK supports a wide variety of infrastructure investments across the region including ports, road building and utility modernisation.

The UK Government are currently reviewing DFID's aid programme, including aid delivered to the Caribbean through both bilateral and multilateral channels, to ensure UK aid is effective and determine how we can achieve better value for money for the taxpayer and accelerate progress towards the millennium development goals (MDGs). Future funding allocations will be decided once these reviews have been completed.

International Assistance

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department has allocated in respect of achieving each millennium development goal in the latest period for which figures are available. [24024]

Mr Duncan: It is not possible to provide figures for funding provided by the Department for International Development (DFID) in respect of achieving each millennium development goal (MDGs). Accelerating progress towards the achievement of the MDGs is a key priority for DFID and a large proportion of UK aid is spent on programmes designed to deliver a range of objectives across the MDGs. It is therefore not possible to disaggregate expenditure under each goal.

DFID does track expenditure on individual sectors and a full detailed breakdown for 2009-10 was published in 'Statistics on International Development'. The DFID publication 'DFID in 2009/10' also sets out how DFID is contributing to delivering the MDGs in 22 priority developing countries. Both these documents are available on the DFID website and in the Library of the House.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much in cash terms and what proportion of his Department's budget consists of payments to *(a)* the EU and *(b)* multilateral agencies. [24025]

Mr Duncan: In 2009-10, the Department for International Development's (DFID) total aid expenditure was £6,629 million, of which total core funding to multilateral agencies was £2,436 million (39%). Of this amount, £1,186 million (18%) was provided to the European Commission (EC); including £397 million through the European Development Fund (EDF) and £789 million through the EC Development Budget.

More details on DFID's aid expenditure can be found in the annual publication "Statistics on International Development", which is available on the DFID website and in the Library of the House.

Overseas Aid

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which 10 countries received the highest amount of bilateral aid from his Department *(a)* on the latest date for which figures are available and *(b)* in 2005. [24022]

Mr Duncan: Details of the Department for International Development's (DFID) bilateral aid expenditure are published in "Statistics on International Development", which is available on the DFID website and in the Library of the House. The top 10 recipients of DFID bilateral expenditure in 2005-06 and 2009-10 are reproduced in the following table.

	2005-06		*2009-10*	
Rank	*Country*	*£ million*	*Country*	*£ million*
1	India	253	India	295
2	Bangladesh	123	Ethiopia	214
3	Sudan	117	Bangladesh	149
4	Tanzania	112	Sudan	146
5	Afghanistan	98	Tanzania	144
6	Pakistan	97	Pakistan	140
7	Ghana	95	Afghanistan	133
8	Iraq	87	Nigeria	114
9	Nigeria	78	Congo (Dem Rep)	109
10	Uganda	72	Ghana	90

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of his Department's budget is spent on programmes in developing countries. [24023]

Mr Duncan: In 2009-10, the Department for International Development (DFID) provided £6,629 million in aid with the aim of reducing poverty in developing countries. Of this total, £3,952 million (60%) was provided directly to support poverty reduction in developing countries. A further £2,436 million (37%) was provided as core funding to multilateral agencies to fund further programmes in developing countries. The remaining £241 million (3%) was spent on administration costs (including £70 million on Programme Funded Admin) and programmes in other countries (for example countries not on the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD's) Development Assistance Committee's (DAC's) list of aid recipients).

Further details can be found in the annual publication "Statistics on International Development", which is available on the DFID website and in the Library of the House.

Palestinians: Overseas Aid

Joseph Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to prevent UK aid intended for Palestinians in Gaza from reaching Hamas. [24187]

Mr Duncan: UK aid to Gaza is primarily delivered through the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). UNRWA has a range of safeguards to ensure that its operations benefit ordinary Gazans rather than Hamas, and that its staff do not engage in political or militant activity. Other UK funding for Gaza since 2007 has supported projects implemented by established and reputable organisations, such as UN agencies, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and international non-governmental organisations like Oxfam, Save the Children and Islamic Relief. We work closely with all partners on project design to ensure that UK funding complies with European Union and UK legislation on terrorist financing. The monitoring of UK-funded projects which we undertake together with implementing partners has revealed no evidence of any financial benefit to Hamas.

UNRWA: Finance

Joseph Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will increase the level of his Department's assistance to UNRWA for the purposes of meeting the shortfall in its funding requirement. [24186]

Mr Duncan: The UK has a five year (2007-11) core funding commitment to UNRWA worth up to £110 million. In June this year we provided. £19 million and in October we provided an additional £8 million: £3 million for meeting agreed performance targets, and a further £5 million in response to UNRWA's funding shortfall to ensure it can continue to deliver essential services, such as healthcare and education. This brings our total assistance to UNRWA for 2010 to £27 million. This will, among other things, help provide healthcare to 263,000 women and 242,000 children, education for 45,000 children, vocational training for 1,000 vulnerable and disabled people, and food and cash aid for 29,000 extremely poor people.

I recently met UNRWA's Commissioner General, Filippo Grandi, to discuss UNRWA's budget funding shortfall. The UK fully supports UNRWA's fundraising efforts and, in addition to the extra funding we have provided, we are calling on other donors to honour their funding commitments.

EDUCATION

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what funding *(a)* Sheffield city council and *(b)* Barnsley borough council will receive under the Building Schools for the Future programme in each of the next five years. [21113]

Mr Gibb: The projected grant payments under the Building Schools for the Future programme are set out in the following tables. The actual phasing of payments may change depending upon the completion of project milestones.

Design and build projects

£ million

Capital grant	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*	*2015-16*	*Total*
Sheffield	64	28	3	0	0	95
Barnsley	0	0	0	0	0	0

Private finance initiative projects

£ million

Revenue grant	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*	*2015-16*	*Total*
Sheffield	8	8	10	10	10	46
Barnsley	13	21	27	27	27	115

Departmental Consultants

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much was spent on external consultants and advisers by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which he is responsible in each year since 2005. [12438]

Tim Loughton: The Department's spend on consultancy for each financial year is shown in the following table:

Financial year	*Expenditure (£ million)*
2005-06	21.5
2006-07	45.1
2007-08	61.4
2008-09	59.2
2009-10	57.4

The Department does not hold the requested information for its NDPBs, as they are independent and are responsible for their own data.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will change the system of assessing eligibility for education maintenance allowance to take into account the number of young people in a household who are in education. [14971]

Mr Gibb: The education maintenance allowance scheme will close at the end of the 2010/11 academic year and no new applications will be processed from 1 January 2011. It will be replaced by an enhanced Discretionary Learner Support Fund. Decisions about which young people should receive financial support from the Discretionary Learner Support Fund will be made by schools, colleges and training organisations, who are in a better position than Government to determine the needs of individual students. They will target support to those young people who most need it to continue in learning.

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much of the budget for education maintenance allowance for 2010-11 will be available in each financial year to 2014-15; and if he will make a statement. [19856]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 28 October 2010]*: The education maintenance allowance scheme will close at the end of the 2010/11 academic year. The most disadvantaged young people will instead be supported by the enhanced discretionary learner support fund, which will enable closer targeting of resource to individual students in need. £26 million has been invested in 2010-11 in a discretionary learner support fund. With the ending of the EMA, this fund will be increased. We anticipate that in 2014-15 this enhanced fund will be three times greater than current funds. Further details will be announced in due course.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Staffordshire

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of students in *(a)* Tamworth, *(b)* Staffordshire and *(c)* England received an education maintenance allowance bonus after attaining A-level results lower than three C grades in 2009-10. [20680]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education and the Young People's Learning Agency do not collect data about the attainment of young people in receipt of EMA.

Excellence in Cities

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when his Department's Excellence in Cities funding programme ended; and whether any of the funding associated with that programme is still paid to schools. [21487]

Mr Gibb: The Excellence in Cities programme ended in March 2006. Since April 2006, the funding for the programme has been included in the school development grant, which can be spent by schools on any purpose to raise standards. The Government announced in the spending review that school development grant will be rolled into the main school budget in 2011-12. It will be for local authorities, in consultation with their schools forum, to decide whether to take account of the previous levels of school development grant when making allocations to schools.

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether the proposed pupil premium will apply to funding for 16 to 19-year-olds. [19206]

Mr Gibb: The pupil premium does not apply to 16 to 19-year-olds. The 16-18 funding formula already has an element that ensures students from disadvantaged backgrounds receive a funding premium. This is the funding linked to the disadvantage uplift within the formula and that for Additional Learning Support. Details of the 16-18 funding formula can be found at:

http://readingroom.ypla.gov.uk/ypla/funding_rates_and_formula_v2.2.pdf

Schools: Wolverhampton

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the refurbishment of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in Wolverhampton South West constituency. [18002]

Mr Gibb: Future capital support for primary and secondary schools in England will be informed by the review of DfE Capital led by Sebastian James, which is due to report by the end of the calendar year. We are aiming to confirm allocations for 2011/12 in early December underpinned by principles emerging from the review.

Special Educational Needs

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department's review of special educational needs plans to address the recommendations of the Lamb Inquiry review of social educational needs and disability information in respect of piloting arm's length educational psychology services; and if he will make a statement. [21612]

Sarah Teather: On 6 July I announced that a Special Educational Needs and Disability Green Paper would be published which would take a wide look at a range of issues for children with SEN and disabilities. This will include ways of making the system more transparent, giving parents more choice and involvement in the decision-making process and producing an assessment system which is more supportive and is seen to be fairer in its allocation of resources. The provision of educational psychology services will be considered within the context of these ambitions.

The overall finding of the Lamb Inquiry was that by addressing support needs early, ensuring parents were listened to and that there was a real focus on outcomes, parental confidence increased. The Green Paper will be informed by the Inquiry's findings, including those around the operation of different educational psychology service models, such as those at arm's length of the local authority. We will, for example, be looking with interest at the outcomes of local authority innovative SEN projects which are currently under way. These projects include a focus on the provision of educational psychology services at arm's length and ways of providing direct access to educational psychology services for parents.

Specialist Schools

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on the creation of new specialist schools; and if he will make a statement. [21371]

Mr Gibb: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced on 20 October that the Government are removing the prescription that has built up around the specialist schools programme and giving school leaders greater freedom to make use of the opportunities offered by specialism and the associated funding. All schools will be free to decide how to develop specialisms in the light of the total resources available to them. Schools are no longer required to seek formal designation as specialist.

Sure Start Programme

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) when he plans to announce his decision on the Sure Start capital grant application for St John's Church Hall, Colchester; [22832]

(2) when he plans to announce his decision on the Sure Start capital grant application by Kendall Primary School, Colchester. [22833]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 9 November 2010]:* Decisions on Sure Start grant capital funding applications from any individual setting are a matter for the local authority, not the Secretary of State for Education. Ministers are still considering information and evidence from Essex county council concerning its 2010-11 capital programme, as part of the Department's review of each local authority (LA)'s funding to identify areas where savings may need to be found. When a decision has been made, officials will write to the authority informing it of its revised allocation for the year. Once notification of that allocation has been received, it will be for Essex to determine how to distribute the funding in the light of local needs and priorities.

Teachers Pensions

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent representations he has received on the effect on teacher *(a)* retention and *(b)* recruitment of proposals to (i) increase contributions to the Teacher's Pension Scheme and (ii) to freeze teacher salaries. [19082]

Mr Gibb: The Department has consulted teacher and head teacher unions, employers and governor representatives on changes to the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document (the Document) which have taken effect from 1 September 2010. The main changes to the Document result from recent independent School Teachers' Review Body recommendations, which include a 2.3% pay award as the final element of a three-year pay deal for teachers.

In responding to the consultation on the Document, one of the consultees expressed concern about the two-year public sector pay freeze which for teachers who earn the full-time equivalent of more than £21,000, will take effect from 1 September 2011. The Secretary of State has also received correspondence from a Member of Parliament about whether a pay freeze would discourage individuals from entering or remaining in the teaching profession.

Although there will be a two-year pay freeze for teachers from September 2011, the Document does provide maintained schools in England and Wales with the option of making additional payments or providing other financial assistance, support or benefits to retain an existing teacher's services or as an incentive to recruit a new teacher. The Government are also considering how they might reform the existing pay and conditions rules to give schools greater freedoms to pay good teachers more.

The Department has not received recent representations on the effect on recruitment and retention from any future increase in the contribution rate for the teachers' pension scheme (TPS).

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons he decided to reduce funding allocated through regional housing grants by £370 million; what assessment he has made of the likely combined effect on the provision of social housing of the implementation of that decision and the Government's proposals to reduce housing benefit; what impact assessments he has undertaken of that decision; and whether he has made an assessment of the likely effect of the implementation of that decision on the number of jobs in *(a)* Bolton at Home and *(b)* other arms-length management organisations. [24168]

Andrew Stunell: The Government have made clear that our most urgent priority is to tackle the UK's record deficit in order to restore confidence in our economy and support the recovery. In order to tackle the budget deficit all Government Departments have been required to work within a very tight fiscal settlement. Failure to tackle the deficit would have pushed up mortgage rates and made housing less affordable.

The decision to discontinue funding the Private Sector Renewal programme, which received funding of £308 million in 2010-11, reduced by the previous administration from £376 million, is a direct result of these constraints.

Where Private Sector Renewal activities are a local priority, local authorities may chose to direct other funding to provide support packages for vulnerable private sector households. Neither Bolton at Home nor other ALMO would have been direct beneficiaries of funding from this programme.

DCLG has undertaken an equality impact assessment into the end of funding for the Private Sector Renewal programme, in line with our equalities duties, and will be publishing the assessment shortly.

In the spending review we announced almost £4.5 billion investment in new affordable housing to deliver up to 150,000 affordable homes and a further £2 billion investment in Decent Homes. We are also giving housing associations much more flexibility on rents and use of assets. Our aspiration is to deliver even more homes through our investment and reforms. We will publish details of how these proposals will work shortly.

Homelessness: Temporary Accommodation

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of bed and breakfast places needed for homeless people in each London borough in each of the next five years. [24224]

Grant Shapps: No estimates are made by the Department for Communities and Local Government of future demand for bed and breakfast accommodation for homeless people.

Under homelessness legislation that applies to England, bed and breakfast cannot be used by a local housing authority to discharge a duty to secure accommodation for applicants who are pregnant, or whose household includes a pregnant woman or a dependant child, unless no other accommodation is available and then for no more than six weeks in aggregate.

This Government are committed to tackling and preventing homelessness. I have established a new cross-Government working group on homelessness bringing together Ministers from eight Government Departments to address the complex causes of homelessness and rough sleeping.

An additional £130 million will be made available, via the Department for Work and Pensions, to local authorities to administer discretionary housing payments to provide extra support for households where needed. I have also provided a further £10 million in this financial year to London local authorities to help support those families most at risk of homelessness. On 20 October I announced that during the course of the spending review over £400 million of homelessness grant will be made available to local authorities and the voluntary and community sector to support the most vulnerable and tackle homelessness.

Local Government: Voluntary Organisations

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department plans to issue guidance to local authorities on the effects of reduced funding levels on the voluntary sector; and if he will make a statement. [23685]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 12 November 2010]:* We expect local authorities, as they look to find savings to their budgets, to make reductions to their running costs by introducing new ways of working, including better procurement and more joint working, and by benefiting from the reduction in bureaucratic burdens that are imposed on them from central Government.

As I outlined in my Department's press release of 14 October 2010, councils should not seek to avoid making the savings described above by targeting instead the voluntary sector. We expect councils to devolve and empower people and maintain strong links with voluntary and community groups.

In a tight economic climate, there is a greater need for the diversity and innovation voluntary and community groups can offer. Reinforcing monopolies of local services by retrenching into the town hall is not the way forward. Opening up more of councils' budgets to voluntary organisations can improve effectiveness, increase resilience and save costs.

Measures to betaken in the forthcoming Localism Bill will establish new rights for voluntary and community groups to deliver local services.

National Housing and Planning Advice Unit

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what impact assessment he has undertaken of the closure of the National Housing and Planning Advice Unit; [24045]

(2) what his most recent assessment is of the effectiveness of the National Housing and Planning Advice Unit in carrying out its functions. [24047]

Grant Shapps: A decision was taken to close the National Housing and Planning Advice Unit with immediate effect on 28 June because this helped to achieve cost savings because it consolidated housing and planning analysis within the Department, eliminating the risk of duplication in research and advice.

In the interests of transparency, and in order to maximise value from the units research programme, all research was transferred to my Department at no extra cost and is published on the Department's website.

National Tenant Voice

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what impact assessment he has undertaken of the closure of National Tenant Voice; [24046]

(2) what his most recent assessment is of the effectiveness of National Tenant Voice in carrying out its functions. [24048]

Grant Shapps: We did not proceed with the National Tenant Voice as creating yet another central Government quango was not the right way forward for delivering effective tenant empowerment at the local level, and with costs of over £1 million did not represent value for money. Instead, we are giving tenants more power and voice locally through tenant panels, and have provided almost £50,000 for the national tenant organisations to develop proposals for an independent successor body to represent the interests of social tenants.

Regional Planning and Development

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance he has issued to local authorities on the timetable for the ending of regional spatial strategies. [24153]

Greg Clark: The Localism Bill will abolish regional strategies, it will be introduced shortly and we hope for Royal Assent as soon as the parliamentary timetable allows. I also refer my hon. Friend to the written ministerial statement of 10 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 15-16WS, and I am placing in the Library a copy of the associated letter from the Government's Chief Planner to local authorities.

Social Rented Housing: Construction

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether housing associations will be given flexibility to build new homes for traditional social housing rents in circumstances where they judge application of rents at 80 per cent. of market rate to be inappropriate. [24295]

Grant Shapps: We will publish more detail on the implementation of new 'affordable rent' tenure shortly.

Wind Power: Planning Permission

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if he will bring forward proposals to require the Planning Inspectorate to refuse appeals from developers of wind farms when there is unanimous community opposition to the proposals; [24648]

(2) if he will bring forward proposals to provide for planning for wind farms as part of the Localism Bill; [24649]

(3) if he will ensure that the views of local residents are taken into account when plans for the development of wind farms are proposed; [24650]

(4) if he will bring forward proposals to require the developer of any wind farm to ensure the developed area is returned to its original state once the development has finished. [24651]

Robert Neill: In reaching a decision on a planning appeal, a planning inspector will consider whether a proposed development is acceptable in terms of the local council's development plan and other considerations which can include national planning policy and relevant planning issues raised by local communities. The Planning Inspectorate has an important role to play as the arbiter of potential conflicts between the interests of individuals, or local communities, and the needs of the nation. It would therefore be inappropriate to direct the Planning Inspectorate to refuse a planning appeal solely because of community opposition because there may still be strong national or local policy support for a proposal.

We are not proposing to include any specific provisions in the Localism Bill on planning for wind farms. We will publish and present to Parliament a simple and consolidated national planning policy framework covering all forms of development and setting out national economic, environmental and social priorities. We will make an announcement on how we propose to take forward the national planning policy framework and the implications for specific areas of planning policy.

There are requirements on local planning authorities to consult local communities and take their views into account when preparing development plan documents and planning applications must be publicised to allow representations to be made on the planning issues they raise. We will give local people and communities far more ability to determine the shape of the places in which they live by radically reforming the planning system.

Local planning authorities are able to attach conditions to a planning consent to require the restoration of a site as part of the decommissioning of a wind farm when it ceases to be operational.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Equality Act 2010

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities pursuant to the answer of 28 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 443W, on the Equality Act 2010, when she plans to implement the provisions of that section of the Act. [24486]

Lynne Featherstone: My right hon. Friend, the Minister for Women and Equalities has announced that the Government plan to scrap the socio-economic duty.

Women in Power Summit

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how much the Government Equalities Office spent on co-hosting the EU Women in Power summit in February 2010; and how many civil servants attended the event. [22061]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government Equalities Office (GEO) co-funded the EU Women in Power Summit, which the UK co-hosted with Spain during Spain's presidency of the EU on 3 February 2010. The total cost of the UK contribution was £48,485.

The five former UK Ministers who attended the event were each accompanied by Private Secretaries and were supported by one senior civil servant from the Government Equalities Office. The former Minister for Women and Equalities was also accompanied by one special adviser.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Welfare

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to ensure standards of animal welfare are maintained following implementation of the European Directive on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes. [20071]

Lynne Featherstone: I am satisfied that European Directive 2010/63/EU provides a sound and practical framework for the regulation of animal experimentation and testing in Europe and will allow the United Kingdom to maintain its traditionally high standards of welfare and animal protection. At the same time it avoids unnecessary bureaucracy and may offer opportunities to reduce the current regulatory burden in some areas without harming animal welfare.

Arrest Warrants

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many European arrest warrants were issued for UK citizens in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005, *(c)* 2006, *(d)* 2007, *(e)* 2008, *(f)* 2009 and *(g)* 2010 to the latest date for which information is available. [23126]

Nick Herbert: The Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service for Scotland are the designated UK authorities responsible for processing European Arrest Warrants (EAWs). Information is held on Part 1 cases (persons wanted from the UK by another member state) and Part 3 cases (persons wanted by the UK from another member state). It is not possible to provide information relating to EAW requests for UK Citizens which are made between two other EU member states.

Between 1 October 2008 and 31 March 2010, SOCA received 191 EAW Part 1 requests for UK Citizens. These are broken down as follows:

	Number
1 October 2008 to 31 December 2008	29
1 January 2009 to 31 December 2009	119
1 January 2010 to 31 March 2010	43

These figures do not include part 1 requests transmitted directly to Scotland.

Data on the requests made by EU member states in respect of UK citizens prior to 1 October 2008 are currently unavailable and could be recovered only by a manual examination of all SOCA case records. This would incur a disproportionate cost.

For information on the number of UK nationals surrendered to other member states I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 25 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 64-66W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Witham (Priti Patel).

Figures for UK Part 3 requests made in respect of UK citizens since 2006 are shown in the following table. Data for 2004 and 2005 is not readily available and could not be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

	Total
2006	31
2007	43
2008	111
2009	125
2010 (to 31 March)	38

Arrests

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people who were arrested were subsequently released without charge in each of the last three years. [24391]

Nick Herbert: Data on arrests collected by the Home Office do not include information on the subsequent outcomes of arrests.

Community Policing: Finance

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her most recent assessment is of the adequacy of the level of funding for community policing in London. [24049]

Nick Herbert: The allocation of police resources is a matter for the relevant chief constable/commissioner and police authority.

The spending review set out the overall settlement for policing. There will be an announcement to Parliament in early December setting out the details of allocations of grant to all forces, including any specific grants.

Counter-terrorism

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what timescale she has set for the publication of the findings of the rapid review of counter-terrorism powers. [23051]

Nick Herbert: We will announce the outcome of the review to Parliament when it is completed later in the year.

Departmental Lobbying

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent from the public purse on influencing public policy through *(a)* employing external (i) public affairs companies, (ii) strategic consultancies and (iii) corporate communications firms, *(b)* external marketing and *(c)* other activities in each of the last 10 years. [23762]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office agencies and non-departmental public bodies have not spent any money on influencing public policy over the last 10 years.

Departmental Policy

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what departmental policy reviews her Department has undertaken since 6 May 2010; on what date each such review *(a)* was announced and *(b)* is expected to publish its findings; what estimate she has made of the cost of each such review; who has been appointed to lead each such review; to what remuneration each review leader is entitled; how many (i) full-time equivalent civil servants and (ii) seconded staff are working on each such review; from which organisations such staff have been seconded; and how much on average such seconded staff will be paid for their work on the review. [21880]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office has announced eight policy reviews since 6 May 2010:

Review	*Date announced*	*Date findings due to be published*	*Estimate of total cost of review*	*Appointed reviewer and remuneration*	*Number of FTE civil servants working on review*[1]	*Number of seconded staff and average cost*[2]
Counter-terrorism and security powers	13 July 2010	December 2010	Undertaken by civil servants in the course of normal duties	Lord MacDonald of River Glaven. Daily rate of £380, and entitled to reasonable expenses. Estimate him working on the review for 20 days.	6-7	0

Review	*Date announced*	*Date findings due to be published*	*Estimate of total cost of review*	*Appointed reviewer and remuneration*	*Number of FTE civil servants working on review*[1]	*Number of seconded staff and average cost*[2]
Consultation on limiting migration	28 June 2010	Consultation closed on 17 September 2010 Government expect to make announcement before Christmas.	Undertaken by civil servants in the course of normal duties	—	4	0
Licensing Act	19 May 2010	Actions to be taken forward in Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill. Legislative slot to be confirmed.	Undertaken by civil servants in the course of normal duties		6	0
Police Remuneration and Conditions of Service	18 May 2010	Stage one: February 2011 Stage two: June 2011	Subject of ongoing consideration	Tom Winsor. Daily rate of £300, and entitled to reasonable expenses	3.4	0
Anti-Social Behaviour tools and powers	28 July 2010	December 2010, prior to consultation	Undertaken by civil servants in the course of normal duties.	—	7	0
Ending Child Detention for Immigration purposes	15 May 2010	Under discussion.	Undertaken by civil servants in the course of normal duties.		5	0
Student Immigration System	24 June 2010	Early 2011	Undertaken by civil servants in the course of normal duties.	—	3	0
Extradition	8 September 2010	Late summer 2011	In the region of £150,000-£250,000	Sir Scott Baker. Paid in accordance with the normal rates of the Royal Courts of Justice and entitled to claim reasonable expenses. David Perry QC and Anand Doobay, two independent lawyers are also working on he review and will be paid in accordance with Treasury Solicitor rates.	4	0

[1] Number of civil servants working directly on the reviews (not necessarily full-time). Others will contribute over the course of the reviews.

[2] We have interpreted these questions to refer to non-government secondees.

Departmental Travel

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of its expenditure on travel undertaken by *(a)* her and *(b)* each other Minister in her Department in (i) September and (ii) October 2010. [21854]

Nick Herbert: As set out in the Ministerial Code departments will publish, at least quarterly, details of all travel overseas by Ministers. Information for the second quarter will be published as soon as it is ready.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Departmental Work Experience

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many interns her Department has engaged in the last 12 months; and how many were *(a)* unpaid, *(b)* remunerated with expenses only and *(c)* paid a salary. [17218]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office, including the UK Border Agency (UKBA) but excluding its other agencies, has engaged 31 interns during the last 12 months. Of these, seven were unpaid and 24 were paid at either the administrative assistant or administrative officer wage (both which are above the national minimum wage). We are unable to confirm how many were remunerated with expenses without incurring disproportionate cost.

All of the intern placements were offered and accepted by the applicants prior to the Chancellor's announcement of a recruitment freeze across the civil service in May 2010.

In addition, the Home Office, including UKBA but excluding its other agencies, appointed 24 undergraduates under the Fast Stream Summer Development Programme (SDP) and Summer Placement Scheme (SPS), and a further two undergraduates under the Windsor Fellowship. The SDP and SPS are 6-8 week placements offered to undergraduates from ethnic minority backgrounds and with disabilities respectively, and the Windsor Fellowship is a Leadership Programme offering 6-8 week placements for ethnic minority undergraduates who have been identified as having leadership potential. All 26 were remunerated at the executive officer wage.

All 26 appointments relate to the Graduate Fast Stream Programme and were therefore exempt from the recruitment freeze.

Immigration

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the implications for UK citizens of the implementation of EU Directive 2006/24/EC on the retention of data. [19259]

Nick Herbert: The Data Retention (EC Directive) Regulations 2009 completed the transposition of the EU Directive 2006/24/EC into UK law. A public consultation was conducted prior to transposition to consider the impact of the regulations and its results were published. The UK is currently contributing to the assessment of the effectiveness of the directive being conducted by the European Commission, as required by the directive.

We believe that the EU data retention directive provides a valuable basis for retaining communications data that is critical for serious crime investigations and to counter terrorism, both in the UK and elsewhere in Europe.

Institute for Fiscal Studies

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on services provided by the Institute for Fiscal Studies in each of the last 10 years. [23394]

Nick Herbert: The available information for expenditure on services provided by the Institute of Fiscal Studies is shown in the following table. This is expenditure on specialist training and development services. Financial records for the period 2001-02 to 2003-04 are not held centrally and the information could not be collected without incurring disproportionate cost.

Home Office expenditure on services provided by the institute of Fiscal Studies

	£
2001-02	Not available
2002-03	Not available
2003-04	Not available
2004-05	1,128
2005-06	2,321
2006-07	1,500
2007-08	0
2008-09	6,400
2009-10	8,222
2010-11	0

Neighbourhood Policing Fund

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when she expects to take a decision on the future of the neighbourhood policing fund; [22777]

(2) what recent discussions her Department has had with *(a)* the Association of Chief Police Officers, *(b)* the Association of Police Authorities and *(c)* police forces on the future of the Neighbourhood Policing Fund. [22778]

Nick Herbert: In recent weeks I have spoken to chief constables, police authorities and others about the Government's reform plans for policing and the implications of the comprehensive spending review (CSR). Police community support officers (PCSOs) make an important contribution to neighbourhood policing and the visible and available policing in communities the public wish to see. Following the CSR, an announcement will be made to Parliament in early December on the details of police funding, including the specific grant for neighbourhood policing.

Newspaper Press: Telephone Hacking

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will request HM Inspectorate of Constabulary to review the Metropolitan Police Service's investigation into telephone hacking and blagging; and if she will make a statement. [23794]

Nick Herbert: The Metropolitan police are currently conducting further inquiries into recent telephone hacking allegations. As we have previously made clear, we believe the right course of action is to await the outcome of those inquiries.

Police

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions the police have entered premises for which they did not possess an appropriate warrant during raids *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in Milton Keynes in each of the last three years. [23954]

Nick Herbert: The information is not available centrally.

Police: Demonstrations

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what reports she has received from the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) on *(a)* the estimated cost of the damage caused and *(b)* the estimated number of criminal offences committed in the course of the demonstration in London on 10 November 2010; how many arrests were made; how many people were stopped and searched in connection with the demonstration; what the cost to the MPS was of policing the demonstration; what the policy of the MPS is on recovering policing costs from organisers of demonstrations; and if she will make a statement. [24008]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 15 November 2010]*: I refer my hon. Friend to the statement I gave to the House on 11 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 457-468, on public disorder at the National Union of

Students rally. As of 11 November, 47 arrests were made by the Metropolitan Police Service and three arrests by the British Transport Police. The Metropolitan Police Service will be carrying out a comprehensive post-incident investigation and will report to the Metropolitan Police Authority on its findings.

Police: Helicopters

Jack Lopresti: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the likely effects of the relocation of the Police response helicopter based at Filton Airfield to RAF Colerne on the ability of the proposed National Police Air Service to reduce crime. [24167]

Nick Herbert: A helicopter is one of a number of assets that can be used by the police to tackle crime. The effects of relocating air support from Filton airfield to RAF Colerne have been carefully considered in the development of the proposed National Police Air Service.

The proposal will mean that the Western Counties aircraft is better placed to meet both urban and rural demand for air support, while offering better value for money for the taxpayer.

Police: Radiation Exposure

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* national and *(b)* local agreements there are in relation to the radiation dose uptake limitation system adopted by each police force when attending a radiation emergency at each of the nuclear powered submarine operational berths maintained by the Ministry of Defence as required by Regulation 14 of the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2001. [23633]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office does not hold the information requested. The health and safety of police officers is the responsibility of the relevant chief officer. In relation to potential radiation exposure, local police operational response plans will be informed by appropriate national guidance including for example, that issued by the Health and Safety Executive (including the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2001) and the Health Protection Agency, as well as advice provided to local forces by Ministry of Defence personnel regarding any relevant military facilities located within a particular force area.

Rape

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she plans to take to reduce the incidence of *(a)* sexual assault on women and *(b)* rape. [16056]

Mrs May *[holding answer 11 October 2010]*: Reducing the incidence of rape and sexual assault requires effective prevention, the conviction of offenders and the robust management of perpetrators and serial offenders.

In addition, the Government's focus is on the rights and welfare of the victim and we are committed to ensuring that every victim of rape has access to appropriate support. In particular, we are looking at putting funding for rape crisis services on a more sustainable basis and looking at establishing new rape crisis centres where there are gaps in provision.

Baroness Stern led an independent review into the way rape complaints are handled by public authorities in England and Wales. The Government will be responding fully to Baroness Stern's review in spring 2011.

The Government are working to support agencies in the criminal justice system to ensure that the effective investigation and prosecution of rape results in the conviction of offenders, in addition, HM Inspectorate Constabulary and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate are currently taking forward an inspection that focuses on the management of perpetrators, handling of intelligence on suspects and protection of victims from repeat offenders.

Rescue Services

Rory Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what division of her Department has responsibility for mountain rescue services; and if she will make a statement. [24027]

Nick Herbert: The Finance and Strategy Directorate has co-ordinating responsibility for queries on mountain rescue services across Government.

The following Departments retain responsibility of aspects of mountain rescue services:

Ministry of Defence
Department of Transport
Department for Communities and Local Government
Department for Culture Media and Sport
Cabinet Office
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
HM Treasury
Department for Health
Home Office.

Safer Neighbourhood Teams

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to assist the work of Safer Neighbourhood teams in the current Parliament. [24062]

Nick Herbert: The Government support neighbourhood policing which provides a dedicated, consistent and visible presence in communities, tackling crime and antisocial behaviour. Neighbourhood policing strengthens the public's confidence that the criminal justice system is on their side, encouraging them to play their own part in keeping their communities safe. Police community support officers make an important contribution to the visible and available policing the public wish to see.

We will transfer power in policing, replacing bureaucratic accountability with democratic accountability. Police and Crime Commissioners will be directly elected by the public and hold the police to account for their performance, including the quality of neighbourhood policing.

Neighbourhood policing teams will hold regular beat meetings to provide residents with the opportunity to hold them to account and local crime maps will give the public information on crime in their area.

Sexual Offences: Registration

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department plans to take in response to the Supreme Court judgement on the Violent and Sex Offenders Register and Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights. [24319]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 16 November 2010]:* On 21 April 2010, in the case of R (on the application of F and Angus Aubrey Thompson) *v.* Secretary of State for the Home Department (2010) UKSC 17, the Supreme Court declared the present arrangements requiring the indefinite registration of offenders under the Sexual Offences Act 2003, without the prospect of review, to be incompatible with article 8 of the European convention on human rights (ECHR). The effect of a declaration of incompatibility is not to render the relevant primary legislation invalid. Rather, such legislation remains in force until such time as the Government amend it. Protecting the public is a priority for the Home Office and the Secretary of State is considering the judgment carefully and liaising with partners in order to ascertain how best to give effect to the Court's judgment.

South Yorkshire

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the visit to Penistone and Stocksbridge constituency by a Minister in her Department on 4 November 2010 was classified as an official ministerial visit. [23079]

Lynne Featherstone: There were no official visits to the Penistone and Stocksbridge constituency by Ministers on this date. I visited a local initiative in a private capacity.

Terrorism: Detainees

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the conclusions of the July 2010 report of the Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation in respect of the effects on national security of a reduction to 14 days of the maximum permissible pre-charge detention period. [15418]

Mrs May *[holding answer 14 September 2010]:* The maximum period that terrorists suspects can be detained before charge, including how this period can be reduced below 28 days, is being considered as part of my review of six key counter-terrorism and security powers that I announced to the House on 13 July. The review is taking into account a wide range of contributions, including the reports of Lord Carlile, the independent reviewer of terrorism legislation. The outcome of the review will be reported to Parliament.

TREASURY

Charities: Finance

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much Government funding was allocated to charities in each of the last 10 years; and what estimate he has made of the amount of funding to be allocated to charities in each of the next five years. [24211]

Justine Greening: Public funds reach charities through a variety of mechanisms, such as tax reliefs, grants, public service contracts, match-funding etc. It is therefore difficult to calculate total figures for Government allocation of funding to charities and information on this is not held centrally.

The spending review set out a £470 million package of support for the sector including funding for an endowment fund (Community First) to help support local organisations, in addition to a £100 million transition fund. In addition, the Big Society Bank, funded by dormant account funds, will provide a new source of finance for the sector and will leverage in additional private sector resources.

Corporation Tax: Redcar

Ian Swales: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect on businesses in Redcar constituency of the reduction in the small profits rate of corporation tax. [23957]

Mr Gauke: No assessment is available on the effect on businesses in Redcar constituency of the reduction in the small profits rate of corporation tax.

Excise Duties: Beer

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue is raised from a pint of beer of average price sold in *(a)* a pub and *(b)* a supermarket; and whether he has plans to provide support for pubs through fiscal measures. [24313]

Justine Greening *[holding answer 16 November 2010]:* Beer duty is levied according to the alcoholic strength of the product, and the same duty rate applies to all products regardless of their point of sale. In addition to excise duty, alcohol products are subject to VAT. The following table shows average prices and tax revenue on a pint of beer of 4.2% abv.

£

	Average price	*Duty*	*VAT*	*Total tax*
(a) On-trade	2.73	0.41	0.41	0.82
(b) Off-trade	1.11	0.41	0.17	0.58

At the June Budget a number of measures were announced to boost business, from which pubs will benefit. These include a reduction in corporation tax rates, and reduced employers' national insurance contributions.

Investment

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the annual change in the level of business investment was in each of the last five years; and what estimate he has made of the likely change in that level in each of the next five years. [24225]

Justine Greening: Business investment growth was 4.5% in 2005, 4.8% in 2006, 12.5% in 2007, -1.1% in 2008 and -18.8% in 2009. On 22 June 2010 the Office of Budget Responsibility (OBR) forecast business investment to grow by 1.4% in 2010, 8.1% in 2011, 10.0% in 2012, 10.9% in 2013, 9.5% in 2014 and 8.2% in 2015. The OBR will publish an updated forecast on 29 November.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Chope: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Christchurch of 4 October on Antony Bone. [24690]

Mr Hoban: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Child Poverty

Mr Umunna: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether his assessment that the outcomes of the Comprehensive Spending Review would have no measurable impact on child poverty for the next two years was made in respect of the period ending in March 2012; [24030]

(2) whether his assessment that the outcomes of the Comprehensive Spending Review would have no measurable impact on child poverty for the next two years took account of the provisions relating to the *(a)* relative low income, *(b)* combined low income and material deprivation, *(c)* absolute low income and *(d)* the persistent poverty target in the Child Poverty Act 2010; and if he will make a statement; [24031]

(3) whether the tax and benefit microsimulation model used as the basis for his assessment that the outcomes of the Comprehensive Spending Review would have no measurable impact on child poverty for the next two years took account of the Government's proposed changes to *(a)* housing benefit, *(b)* council tax benefit, *(c)* disability living allowance, *(d)* employment support allowance and *(e)* in-year income change rules for tax credits; and if he will make a statement; [24032]

(4) what account he took of his estimate of likely reductions in the numbers of public sector jobs in determining that the outcomes of the Comprehensive Spending Review would have no measurable impact on child poverty for the next two years; and if he will make a statement. [24033]

Justine Greening: The estimate that the impact of spending review measures would have no measurable impact on child poverty over the next two years was made in respect of relative low income poverty, and covers the period April 2011 to end March 2013.

The data sources document accompanying the spending review sets out the measures which are included in this assessment.

There is no central target for public sector workforce reductions. Individual employers will determine exact work force implications in line with their overall settlements. In addition, the data underpinning the Treasury's microsimulation model do not record whether individuals work in the public or private sector, which means that it is not possible to allocate any changes in work force numbers to individuals in the data in a sufficiently robust way. Accordingly, it was not possible to robustly estimate the impact of reductions in public sector jobs on child poverty at spending review.

Public Expenditure: Wales and Scotland

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the Barnett consequentials for *(a)* Wales and *(b)* Scotland will be of his decision to limit the geographic scope of the Cycling England programme to England; and if he will make a statement. [24515]

Danny Alexander: Barnett consequentials are calculated at departmental, not individual programme, level. Full details of the Barnett formula, together with up to date comparability factors are set out in the 2010 edition of the Treasury publication 'Funding the Scottish Parliament, National Assembly for Wales and Northern Ireland Assembly: Statement of Funding Policy'.

Public Sector: Employment

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many public sector jobs he expects there to be in each region in each of the next five years. [24229]

Danny Alexander: The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) released, as part of its Budget forecasts on 22 June 2010, projections for whole economy employment to 2015-16.

Further information on its employment forecast, including projections for general Government employment, was released on 30 June 2010 in its document "OBR forecast: Employment", which can be found on the following webpage:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/publications.html

A revised forecast will be released on 29 November 2010.

The OBR has not published forecasts on a sub-national level.

Tax Evasion

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* individuals and *(b)* organisations HM Revenue and Customs has (i) investigated and (ii) prosecuted for offences related to tax evasion in each of the last five years. [13418]

Mr Gauke: HMRC does not hesitate to use its criminal investigation powers to pursue a prosecution, however, cost-effective civil settlement procedures are used in the majority of evasion cases. This represents excellent value for the Exchequer, as all undeclared tax is repaid and they also pay a penalty which can be up to 100% of the tax evaded. Every year we collect millions of pounds of evaded tax using these tried, well-established methods.

Compliance officers at all grades are engaged in a wide range of activities, which may include risk assessment, recovery of underpaid tax, the prevention of further tax losses, debt collection and the deterrence of tax evasion through, for example criminal investigation. The number of interventions these officers carried out in 2008-09 totalled approximately 400,000 excluding our education interventions.

A disaggregated breakdown of HMRC's investigations between individuals and organisations is available only at disproportionate cost.

Details of the number of cases prosecuted for income tax, corporation tax, VAT and excise evasion are:

	Number
2006-07	384
2007-08	413
2008-09	306
2009-10	225

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his most recent assessment is of the effect on the reduction of UK greenhouse gas emissions of carbon sink failure. [23809]

Gregory Barker: As indicated in my response to the hon. Member's question on 15 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 601W, carbon sink failure at the global level is very unlikely. Any weakening of carbon sinks would reduce the global allowable emissions for a given temperature target, but projections for emissions reductions in accordance with a 2° C target take this factor into account. Because we do not expect that global carbon sink failure is a likely scenario it is not expected to have an impact on UK emissions reductions. The UK's carbon budgets under the Climate Change Act, combine both emissions and uptake from sinks. These are reported via the UK Greenhouse Gas Inventory funded by my Department, and increases or decreases in sinks are taken into account in measuring how the UK is meeting its carbon budgets.

Departmental Computer Software

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment was made in developing the 2050 Energy Pathways calculator tool of the merits of making it operate using Open Source software; what factors underpinned the choice of Microsoft Excel for PCs 2007 and 2010 for the tool; and what evaluation was made of the effects of the cost of obtaining this software on the likely levels of use of the calculator tool. [23890]

Gregory Barker: The 2050 Pathways Calculator is open source: the full model is available for inspection, improvement and reuse by anyone. As a result, the Department has received useful suggestions about how to improve the model during the Call for Evidence period which ran between 27 July and 5 October 2010. The file format is .xlxs, which is documented in the ECMA-376 international standard and therefore could be implemented by an open source equivalent to Excel.

The only software that implements the file format sufficiently for the model to run is Microsoft Excel for PCs 2007 and 2010, and Microsoft Excel for Macs 2011. The reason is that the model includes "structured references" and these have not been implemented by open source Excel alternatives. Structured references were implemented in the "Excel to Ruby programming language" convertor which was released by the Department under an open source licence as part of the source code for the web version of the 2050 Calculator.

In evaluating the consequences of the use of structured references, it was concluded that the benefit that structured references gave of allowing the model to be implemented and updated accurately within the time available outweighed the drawback of its inability to run on open source alternatives. This drawback was further mitigated by the availability of trial copies of appropriate versions of Microsoft Excel (which were free at the time of the Call for Evidence) and which meant that most people would be able to make use of the 2050 Calculator tool during the Call for Evidence period of the project.

EU Emissions Trading Scheme

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) whether he has made an assessment of the net effect of the implementation of the European Commission's proposed hybrid clinker benchmark for phase III of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme on environmental quality standards; [23591]

(2) what assessment he has made of the likely net contribution of the implementation of the European Commission's proposed hybrid clinker benchmark for phase III of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme to meeting his Department's UK carbon budget targets; [23592]

(3) whether he has made an assessment of the potential for carbon leakage as a result of the implementation of the European Commission's proposal for a hybrid clinker benchmark for phase III of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme; [23593]

(4) whether he has had discussions with the European Commission on the methodology it used to determine the reduction factors proposed in relation to the clinker benchmark to be adopted under phase III of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme; [23594]

(5) what estimate he has made of the cost to businesses of complying with the European Commission's proposed hybrid clinker benchmark for phase III of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme. [23596]

Gregory Barker: The European Commission's proposal for the free allocation rules for phase III of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) was sent to member states on 22 October. My officials are working closely with colleagues in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to analyse the proposal in detail in order to assess its impact on UK industry. My officials have met with representatives of the UK cement sector in order to discuss the proposal to ensure that we have a full understanding of the implications of the proposed approach. They will also be having discussions with the European Commission on this issue and further discussions with industry before any conclusions are reached.

Feed-in Tariffs

Jack Lopresti: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether feed-in tariffs are guaranteed for 25 years for new installations; and what factors would lead to their withdrawal. [23721]

Charles Hendry: The recent announcements in the comprehensive spending review confirmed any changes to feed-in tariffs as a result of future reviews of the scheme will only affect new entrants to the scheme from that point forward. The Government have no intention of changing tariffs for those already receiving FITs.

Fuel Poverty: Meters

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will take steps to increase the level of awareness among prepayment meter users in or at risk of fuel poverty of the *(a)* availability of funding from energy efficiency programmes and *(b)* possibility of carrying out improvement works without a landlord's permission. [24504]

Gregory Barker: The Government are committed to helping those households who are in fuel poverty. We recognise the need to help more of the most vulnerable to keep their homes warm at an affordable cost. Current schemes, including Warm Front and the carbon emissions reduction target (CERT) promote awareness across all customers, including those who have prepayment meters.

In addition, from late 2012 the new energy company obligation, as part of our Green Deal initiative, will focus particularly on those households who need additional support, including the poorest and most vulnerable and those in hard to treat homes.

Energy efficiency improvement works under the Green Deal will require a landlord's permission. However, we are seeking to create powers in the Energy Security and Green Economy Bill which could require landlords to honour reasonable requests for energy efficiency improvements, where a financial support package, such as the Green Deal, is available.

Heat Pumps

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will bring forward proposals to establish a system of independent verification of the average service life of air-sourced heat pumps. [24695]

Gregory Barker: We have no plans to bring forward such proposals. As with other microgeneration technologies, heat pumps are dealt with under the microgeneration certification scheme but this does not cover average service life.

Service life is influenced by many factors including heat pump design, component selection, installation and maintenance, actual use against expected use, number of hours run, reliability of the sub-components and level of manufacturer support. Verification of average life taking account of all these variables would be an extremely resource intensive activity.

Heating: Fluorocarbons

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information his Department holds on the proportion of installed heat pumps which use the refrigerant fluorocarbon gas, R404A. [24691]

Gregory Barker: The Department does not hold specific information on the proportion of heat pumps that use refrigerant R404A. A recent study, undertaken by AEA into refrigerant emissions and forecasts, identified only one refrigerant gas emitted from heat pumps—HFC 134.

It might be concluded from this that only a very small proportion of heat pumps use refrigerant R404A. However the authors of the study indicated that it was not easy to locate information about the fluids and refrigerant charge size used in ground and air source heat pumps.

Nuclear Power

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the cost of hardening all UK civil nuclear installations against attack from land or sea-launched precision-guided penetrator weapons. [23897]

Charles Hendry: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 15 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 609W. It is important that security measures adopted at civil nuclear installations are proportionate to the threat. Nuclear site licence companies are responsible for meeting the costs of security measures.

Renewable Energy

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to increase the amount of electricity generated from renewable sources. [22715]

Charles Hendry: The main financial mechanisms that the Government have to incentivise the generation of renewable electricity are the renewables obligation (RO) and the feed-in tariff (FIT) scheme:

RO supports large-scale generation of renewable electricity. Since its introduction in 2002, it has tripled the level of renewable electricity in the UK from 1.8% to 6.7%[1] in 2009, and is currently worth around £1.4[2] billion/year in support to the renewable electricity industry. The spending review of 20 October 2010 announced that this level of funding will continue, confirming the Government's commitment to the increase of renewable electricity. The Electricity Market Reform consultation document is due to be published next month and will set out proposals for changes to the existing market in order to meet our renewables and decarbonisation goals. But whatever the proposal, the Government understand the need for investor certainty, and are not looking to make retrospective changes.

The FIT scheme was launched on 1 April of this year and supports small-scale low carbon electricity generation up to 5MW (2kW for microCHP) in capacity. Initial figures for the first six months of the scheme (taken from Ofgem's online database) indicate that 8,960 installations commissioned since the announcement of the scheme in July 2009 were supported. This amounts to a total installed capacity of 35.8MW.

We are also addressing the non-financial barriers to deployment:

The spending review of 20 October 2010 included an announcement for over £200 million to support the development of energy technologies, of which £60 million has been earmarked for offshore wind manufacturing infrastructure at port locations. By supporting this manufacturing development, we are bringing forward industrial capacity that will help the UK meet its energy policy objectives. The Government are currently developing its detailed plans for the allocation of the remainder of this funding.

Alongside this, we are working to remove grid connection barriers for low carbon energy production. We have already implemented enduring grid access reform in the form of a 'Connect and Manage' regime, so that new generation will be able to connect to the grid as soon as their local connection is built without waiting for wider network reinforcement. In addition, we have also been working to put in place the most effective regulatory regime for offshore electricity transmission, so that these connections can be delivered in a cost effective, timely and co-ordinated manner.

A fast and efficient planning system is critical for facilitating investment in new major energy infrastructure, including renewables. The Government want a planning system for such infrastructure which is rapid, predictable and accountable. The Government intend to abolish the Infrastructure Planning Commission and replace it with a major infrastructure planning unit (MIPU). Under the MIPU system, the fast-track examination system would be retained but MIPU would make recommendations to Ministers who would then take the final decision. The new system gives local residents and community groups opportunities to become involved in the nationally significant infrastructure projects development consents process.

We will publish our renewables delivery plan in the spring. This will set out the actions necessary to drive faster deployment of renewables through the decade.

[1] Department of Energy and Climate Change, June 2010 Energy Trends

[2] Ofgem:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Sustainability/Environment/RenewablObl/Pages/RenewablObl.aspx

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of likely sources of funding to meet the cost of reaching renewable energy targets by 2020. [23835]

Charles Hendry *[holding answer 12 November 2010]*: We expect funding to help meet our renewable energy target to come from a mix of sources including the renewable financial incentives, direct public funding to support innovation, and private investment.

The main financial mechanisms that the Government have to incentivise the generation of renewable electricity are the renewables obligation (RO) and the feed-in tariff (FIT) scheme, with the renewable heat incentive due to go ahead in June 2011 to support renewable heat.

We are due to publish the electricity market reform consultation document next month. This will set out proposals for changes to the existing market in order to meet our renewables and decarbonisation goals. But whatever the proposal, Government understand the need for investor certainty and protection of existing investments.

Renewable Energy: Israel

Richard Harrington: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent steps he has taken to increase levels of energy efficiency; and whether he has assessed the merits of working together with Israel on the development of *(a)* solar and *(b)* other renewable energy systems for the purpose of increasing those levels. [24643]

Gregory Barker: The coalition Government have taken a number of significant steps to improve energy efficiency. Key policies include developing the Green Deal to drive major improvements in the energy efficiency of homes and businesses; committing to reducing carbon emissions from central Government by 10% by May 2011; and committing to the rollout of smart meters.

While DECC does engage with Israel through multilateral fora that seek to promote renewable energy—such as the International Renewable Energy Agency—and while the UK and Israel are both members of the International Energy Agency's Photovoltaic Power Systems R&D collaboration programme, no specific work has been done by the Department to engage Israel further on either solar or other renewable energy technologies.

Warm Front Scheme

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has for the future of the eligibility criteria for the Warm Front scheme; and if he will ensure that those who are eligible for assistance under the scheme on the sole ground that they may receive disability living allowance continue to be eligible for such assistance. [24483]

Gregory Barker: As announced in the spending review, DECC will fund a smaller, more targeted Warm Front scheme over the next two years as we transition to the full role out of the Green Deal.

We will shortly be consulting on proposed changes to Warm Front to ensure the eligibility criteria reflect our determination to focus on the most vulnerable households.

Warm Front Scheme: Fuel Poverty

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the likely effects on those in fuel poverty of the proposed reductions in funding for the Warm Front scheme in the next two financial years. [24482]

Gregory Barker: The spending review commits very significant resources to tackling fuel poverty. DECC will fund a smaller, more targeted Warm Front scheme over the next two years as we transition to the full roll out of the Green Deal and the energy company obligation. We will shortly be consulting on proposed changes to Warm Front to ensure the eligibility criteria reflect our determination to focus on the most vulnerable households. We have made permanent the increase to cold weather payments at £25 a week to help low income households during periods of cold weather. In addition, from April 2011, energy suppliers will provide greater help with energy bills to more of the most vulnerable fuel poor households, through social price support.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Care Homes: Boilers

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he plans to take to ensure that hot water tanks heated by heat pumps comply with health and safety legislation designed to ensure control of legionella in *(a)* residential homes and *(b)* Government buildings. [24692]

Chris Grayling: Existing health and safety legislation requires all employers who manage premises with a hot/cold water system to consider the risks from legionella bacteria that may affect their staff or members of the public and to take suitable precautions. These requirements extend to Government Departments. Commercial businesses or public services that provide residential accommodation have the same responsibility as employers if, in general, they are responsible for the maintenance and repairs of the water system at the premises. The use of new energy saving technology to heat water, including heat pumps, does not in itself introduce a new legionella bacteria risk. HSE has published guidance to assist employers, which is freely available from HSE's website.

Carer's Allowance

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost of allowing carers who are enrolled in courses designated as full-time or in training for more than 20 hours per week to receive carer's allowance in the first 12 months following such a change. [22637]

Maria Miller: No such estimate has been made.

Carer's allowance provides a measure of financial support for people who forgo the opportunity of full-time employment in order to provide care for a severely disabled person.

The educational maintenance system, via its range of loans and grants, provides financial support for full-time students, including carers. In consequence, people engaged in full-time study are generally precluded from entitlement to income-replacement and income-related social security benefits.

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to extend the eligibility criteria for carers allowance to enable more carers who are studying or in training to claim the allowance. [22638]

Maria Miller: The Government recognise that the United Kingdom's 6 million carers play an indispensable role in looking after family members or friends who need support.

Carer's allowance provides a measure of financial support for people who forgo the opportunity of full-time employment in order to provide care for a severely disabled person.

The educational maintenance system, via its range of loans and grants, provides financial support for full-time students, including carers. In consequence, people engaged in full-time study are generally precluded from entitlement to income-replacement and income-related social security benefits.

We have set out our commitment to simplify the benefit system in order to improve work incentives and encourage responsibility and fairness. We will consider carefully the needs of carers as we develop our plans for welfare reform.

Child Benefit

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Erith and Thamesmead of 19 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 643W, on child benefit, whether there has been a re-assessment of the changes announced to child benefit in relation to the effects on national insurance credits towards state pension; and if he will make a statement. [24130]

Steve Webb: We are still considering the full implications of the changes announced to child benefit to ensure that those entitled continue to receive national insurance credits towards their state pension.

Departmental Early Retirement

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have been offered enhanced early retirement packages in each of the last three years. [22031]

Chris Grayling: The early retirement benefits that are available to civil servants are set out in the Civil Service Compensation Scheme. Currently there are two categories of enhanced early retirement benefits: flexible early retirement and compulsory early retirement.

Flexible early retirement provides an enhancement of up to six and two thirds years to the reckonable service used to calculate pension benefits. The enhancement cannot take the adjusted reckonable service beyond that which would have been earned by pension age (age 60) nor can it take the total enhanced reckonable service beyond the maximum of 45 years.

Compulsory early retirement benefits include the same enhancement applicable to the flexible early retirement pension calculation plus a lump sum compensation payment of up to six months' pay.

Central records are not kept of the number of packages offered, however, the following table sets out the numbers of employees who opted to leave the Department for Work and Pensions and its agencies in the last three years under enhanced early retirement packages.

Agency	*Flexible early retirement*	*Compulsory early retirement*	*Total enhanced retirements*
2007-08			
Jobcentre Plus	95	323	418
Pension, Disability Carers Service	247	157	404
Corporate and Shared Services	69	22	91
DWP total	411	502	913
2008-09			
Jobcentre Plus	17	70	87
Pension, Disability Carers Service	1	122	123
Corporate and Shared Services	5	7	12
DWP total	23	199	222
2009-10			
Jobcentre Plus	3	11	14
Pension, Disability Carers Service	2	0	2
Corporate and Shared Services	5	0	5
DWP total	10	11	21

Departmental Pay

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was paid to officials in his Department and its non-departmental public bodies in bonuses and other payments in addition to salary in each year since 1997; how many officials received such payments; and what the monetary values was of the largest 20 payments made in each such year. [18713]

Chris Grayling: The information has been placed in the Library.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what allowances and payments in addition to salary were available to officials in his Department and its non-departmental public bodies in each year since 1997; and what the monetary value was of payments and allowances of each type in each such year. [18714]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions was established in 2002 and information can be provided only from that date. DWP has 16 allowances that can be paid in addition to salary, four of which are payable only to employees who hold reserved rights to those particular allowances.

Details of the individual rates of allowances and payments payable since the Department's first harmonised pay award in 2002 have been provided in a separate table which has been placed in the Library. The table also includes 14 allowances that have been abolished; many of which were abolished following a review held in 2005. The Department could provide details of the total amount spent on these allowances only at disproportionate cost.

The rates of allowances across DWP and NDPBs are frozen for two years (2010-11 and 2011-12) as part of the pay freeze. We are currently reviewing all departmental expenditure to drive out inefficiencies and deliver value for money for the taxpayer.

Non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs)

Details of the total amount spent on allowances and other payments for NDPBs are provided in the following table:

£

Body	*Payment/allowance type*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
The Pension Regulator (TPR)	Duty Allowance	n/a	n/a	48,470	85,277	134,698
	Duty Rota Allowance	1,117	4,549	11,097	15,537	15,552
	First Aiders' Allowance	3,756	5,121	5,215	4,410	4,422
Pensions Ombudsman (PO) and Pension Protection Fund Ombudsman (PPFO)	Responsibility Allowance	n/a	n/a	6,567	6,000	5,560
Pension Protection Fund (PPF)	Additional Responsibility Allowance	n/a	n/a	n/a	48,000	0
Independent Living Fund (ILF)	On Call Allowance	n/a	n/a	1,503	2,688	2,994
Health and Safety Executive (HSE)	Recruitment and Retention Addition	171,713	192,428	258,188	253,669	277,833
	Qualification Allowance	6,250	4,250	8,500	2,500	3,950
Child Maintenance and Executive Committee (CMEC)[1, 2]	Emergency Officers' Allowance	n/a	n/a	n/a	472	0
	Language Allowance	n/a	n/a	n/a	318	310
	Locational Allowance	n/a	n/a	n/a	4,689	0
	On Call Allowance	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,399	7,090
	Private Secretary Allowance	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,579	9,103
	Procurement Allowance	n/a	n/a	n/a	9,402	45,398
	Responsibility Allowance	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,431	16,460
	Responsibility on Temporary Duties Allowance	n/a	n/a	n/a	[3]	671
	Secondment Allowance	n/a	n/a	n/a	[3]	7,024
	Shorthand Audio Allowance	n/a	n/a	n/a	455	849
	Skills Allowance	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,257	14,939
	Skills Annual Allowance	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3,000

£

Body	*Payment/allowance type*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
	Typing Allowance	n/a	n/a	n/a	858	1,941
	Extended Working Hours Allowance	n/a	n/a	n/a	969,402	2.3 million
	Miscellaneous Allowance	n/a	n/a	n/a	3,413	560

n/a = Allowance was not applicable.

[1] Figures for CMEC are from its inception in November 2008 to March.

[2] Table excludes Temporary Duty Allowance where a member of staff 2010 is acting temporarily in a higher.

[3] Not available.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what programmes his Department and its agencies have to reduce the number of working days lost through sickness and absence. [23407]

Chris Grayling: The Department has cut average sickness absence by 25%, from 11.1 days per employee per year in 2007 to 8.3 days per employee per year currently. The latter figure is below the rate of 9.6 days per employee per year reported by the Chartered Institute for Personnel and Development for the public sector in 2010.

The Department achieved this reduction by applying an ongoing programme to help employees maintain good health, such as providing stress counselling. Where employees do take sick leave, we use occupational health services to support rehabilitation. If, following the provision of all reasonable help, an employee is unable to maintain a satisfactory attendance record, action is taken to dismiss or retire them on ill health grounds.

Other types of unauthorised absence are investigated on a case by case basis. Where appropriate, disciplinary action is taken.

Employment

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of *(a)* men and *(b)* women between the ages of 21 and 60 years have been in employment (i) full-time, (ii) part-time and (iii) in total in each year from 1980 to 2009; and if he will make a statement. [24359]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what proportion of (a) men and (b) women between the ages of 21 and 60 years have been in employment (i) full-time, (ii) part-time and (iii) in total in each year from 1980 to 2009. (24359)

Estimates for people in employment are derived from the Labour Force Survey. The table provided shows the information requested from 1992 to 2009. Comparable estimates prior to 1992 are not available.

Proportion[1] of men and women aged 21 to 60 in full-time and part-time employment, three months ending June, 1992 to 2009, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Percentage

	Male			*Female*		
	Full-time	*Part-time*	*Total[2]*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Total[2]*
1992	79	3	81	38	28	66
1993	77	3	80	38	29	66
1994	77	3	81	38	29	67
1995	78	3	81	38	28	67
1996	77	4	81	38	29	67
1997	78	4	82	39	29	68
1998	79	4	83	39	29	69
1999	79	4	84	40	29	69
2000	80	4	84	41	29	70
2001	80	4	84	41	29	71
2002	79	5	84	41	29	71
2003	79	5	85	42	29	71
2004	79	5	84	42	29	71
2005	79	5	84	43	29	72
2006	79	5	84	44	28	72
2007	79	5	85	43	28	72
2008	79	6	85	44	28	72
2009[3]	*76	*6	*82	*44	*28	*72

[1] The proportion is the number of people in each employment status divided by the population.

[2] Total includes those whose full-time and part-time status was not known.

[3] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates, as described below. *Guide to Quality:* The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5% we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key: * 0 = CV<5%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered precise **5 = CV <10%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered reasonably precise ***10 = CV <20%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered acceptable ****CV ? 20%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

CV = Coefficient of Variation *Note:* It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels mobile home sites etc.) *Source:* Labour Force Survey (LFS).

Employment and Support Allowance

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people are claiming contributory employment and support allowance in the work-related activity group; and how many of those cited a mental health condition as their primary reason for claiming; [23305]

(2) how many people are claiming contributory employment and support allowance; and how many of those cited a mental health condition as their primary reason for claiming. [23306]

Maria Miller: The information is provided in the following table.

Number of contributory employment and support allowance claimants under the mental and behavioural disorders category by stage of claim—February 2010, Great Britain

		Number
All ESA claimants	All stages	479,430
	Work related group	80,910
ESA claimants with a contributory element	All stages	203,680
	Work related group	43,070
Mental and behavioural category		
All ESA claimants	All stages	182,880
	Work related group	31,700
ESA claimants with a contributory element	All stages	62,120
	Work related group	12,740

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. ESA statistics by medical condition can be found at http://83.244.183.180/ESA/esa_additional_feb10.xls
3. Benefit type—The type of ESA is defined as pay status at the case load date—this may differ to the status at the start or end of the claim
4. Employment and support allowance (ESA) replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008
5. Stage of ESA claim—The stage of claim is derived from the amount of payment a claimant receives. There are a number of cases where the stage is unknown, these are claimants which do not receive any payment for ESA (those who receive national insurance credits only).
6. ICD (disease) code Causes of incapacity are based on the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision published by the World Health Organisation. Medical condition is based on evidence provided at the start of the claim, this in itself does not confer entitlement to employment support allowance and may not represent a claimants most recent medical condition. For ESA claimants, data on medical condition is only available from February 2010 onwards.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100%

Employment and Support Allowance: Birmingham

Mr Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Birmingham, Hall Green constituency applied for and were refused employment and support allowance in each of the last two years for which figures are available. [23447]

Chris Grayling: This information is not available for individual constituencies.

The following table presents the outcome for all employment and support allowance (ESA) claims received in the Birmingham local authority area for the dates shown. The table presents data between October 2008, when ESA was introduced, to February 2010, the latest data available.

Outcome of all ESA claims received in Birmingham local authority area, rounded to nearest 10

Month of claim start	*Support Group*	*Work Related Activity Group*	*Fit for Work*	*Claim closed before assessment complete*	*Assessment still in progress*	*Total*
2008						
October	20	20	60	70	0	170
November	50	90	360	360	10	860
December	60	100	290	290	10	740
2009						
January	70	140	400	420	10	1,030
February	70	150	400	390	10	1,020
March	70	170	510	410	10	1,170
April	60	140	490	380	20	1,090
May	70	140	550	390	10	1,150
June	60	140	520	380	10	1,120
July	70	140	540	430	10	1,180
August	60	140	470	350	10	1,040
September	80	150	490	330	20	1,070
October	50	140	470	330	20	1,000
November	40	150	450	320	30	990
December	60	110	350	270	30	820
2010						
January	60	190	460	390	50	1,150
February	50	160	450	340	80	1,080
Total	980	2,260	7,270	5,830	340	16,680

Source:
Benefit claims data held by the Department for Work and Pensions and functional assessment data sourced from Atos Healthcare

Employment: Public Sector

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of people were employed in the public sector in each region in the latest period for which figures are available. [24233]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck dated November 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many and what proportion of people were employed in the public sector in each region in the latest period for which figures are available. (24233)

Estimates of employment for the UK public sector are taken from the ONS release on Public Sector Employment at

www.statistics.gov.uk

The latest period for which figures are available is Quarter 2 2010.

The table attached provides the requested data.

Regional employment: by region and country of workplace Q2 2010[1], not seasonally adjusted

	Public sector		*Thousand*
Region	*Headcount[1]*	*Percentage*	*Total employment[2]*
London	782	18.7	4,172
South East	684	17.3	3,957
South West	518	20.3	2,551
West Midlands	503	20.5	2,452

Regional employment: by region and country of workplace Q2 2010[1], not seasonally adjusted

Thousand

	Public sector		
Region	*Headcount[3]*	*Percentage*	*Total employment[2]*
North West	690	21.8	3,164
North East	285	25.1	1,136
Yorkshire and the Humber	534	22.3	2,391
East Midlands	384	19.5	1,973
East of England	457	17.8	2,566
Wales	343	26.5	1,296
Scotland[4]	606	24.8	2,450
Northern Ireland[5]	228	30.0	759
England	4,838	19.9	24,361
Great Britain	5,787	20.6	28,107
United Kingdom[6]	6,048	20.8	29,142

[1] Estimates are based on where people are employed.

[2] Labour Force Survey—All in employment aged 16 and over. Data refer to May to July 2010.

[3] Public sector estimates include banks reclassified to the public sector—Northern Rock from 9 October 2007, Bradford and Bingley from 26 September 2008, Royal Bank of Scotland and Lloyds Banking Group from 13 October 2008.

[4] Estimates of PSE for Scotland are supplied by Scottish Government and match those produced by Scottish Government on a quarterly basis.

[5] Estimates of PSE for Northern Ireland will differ to those published by DETINI; ONS figures include HM Forces personnel. In addition, ONS percentage figures use the Labour Force Survey employment as a denominator as opposed to the Quarterly Employment Survey employee estimate used by DETINI.

[6] Includes overseas employees, those who did not state their region of workplace when surveyed as part of the Labour Force Survey and approximately 30,000 public sector employees that could not be assigned to a region.

Funeral Payments

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints his Department has received on the funeral payment in the latest period for which figures are available. [22762]

Steve Webb: Jobcentre Plus does not collate or record complaints about Funeral Payments separately.

From April 2010 to 9 November 2010 1,060 complaints relating to the Social Fund were received by Jobcentre Plus. This does not include any complaints that may have been made directly to the chief executive.

Source:

Jobcentre Plus Management Information; Date extracted: 9 November 2010

Notes:

1. The information provided is derived from operational processes and systems solely for the purposes of helping the department to manage its business. It has not been subjected to the rigorous quality assurance checks that our published Official Statistics are put through.

2. Scotland is not included in the total from August 2010 as the Scottish region is currently piloting a new method of recording customer feedback. Funeral Payment data will not be specifically recorded under this new method.

3. The figure includes Budgeting Loans, Community Care Grants, Crisis Loans and Sure Start Maternity Grant complaints as well as Funeral Payments.

4. The figure has been rounded to the nearest 10.

Government Ministers receive correspondence about Funeral Payments, to which Department for Work and Pensions Ministers or officials reply. (This does not include letters on purely operational issues which are passed to Jobcentre Plus for response by the chief executive.) Some of this correspondence will be complaints, but without investigating each individual case, it is not possible to say which were complaints. The number of such cases received about Funeral Payments from April 2010 to 9 November 2010 was 50.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions records

Note:

The figure has been rounded to the nearest 10.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has for the qualifying criteria for payment of funeral payment grant. [23432]

Steve Webb: Our plans for reforming the Social Fund were set out in the White Paper "Universal Credit: welfare that works" (Cm 7957) published on 11 November 2010. The reforms do not include any changes to the qualifying criteria for funeral payments.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost to the public purse of the funeral payment grant scheme has been in each of the last three years. [23436]

Steve Webb: The available information is given in the table.

Cost of the Funeral Payment scheme in Great Britain

£ million

Financial year	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Gross expenditure	46.0	48.4	47.1
Recoveries	0.7	0.7	0.2
Administration cost	4.6	5.1	5.5
Net total cost	49.8	52.8	52.4

Notes:

1. The information provided is management information. Our preference is to answer all parliamentary questions using Official/National Statistics but in this case we only have management information available. It is not quality assured to the same extent as Official/National statistics and there are some issues with the data, for example, gross expenditure does not include claims which were processed clerically and had not been entered on to the Social Fund Computer System by the end of the relevant financial year.

2. The administration costs are the total Jobcentre Plus costs, including re-considerations, but excluding work on appeals.

3. Figures have been rounded to the nearest £0.1 million and may not sum due to rounding.

Sources:

Department for Work and Pensions Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System

Jobcentre Plus Activity Based Management Models

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what account he takes of the average cost of a funeral in determining the level of the funeral benefit payment. [24056]

Steve Webb: Social Fund Funeral Payments are not based on average funeral costs. The specific costs of burial or cremation are taken fully into account when each payment is made. In addition, up to £700 can be paid for other related funeral expenses.

Future Jobs Fund

Kevin Brennan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many young people in each *(a)* region and *(b)* local authority area have taken part in the Future Jobs Fund programme in each of the last six months. [23202]

Chris Grayling: The Young Person's Guarantee statistics were published on 13 October 2010 and cover the period from October 2009 to July 2010. The table shows the number of young people in each *(a)* region and *(b)* local authority area that have taken part in the Future Jobs Fund programme in each of the six months from February to July 2010.

The information has been placed in the Library.

Future Jobs Fund: Local Government

Kevin Brennan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which local authorities have taken part in the Future Jobs Fund programme in the last six months. [22858]

Chris Grayling: The local authorities, who have taken part in the Future Jobs Fund in the last six months are detailed in the following list. The local authorities are either the Lead Accountable Body, responsible for the co-ordination and administration of the approved bid on behalf of their partners, or have been communicated to the Department as being partners in a delivering a Future Jobs Fund grant.

Aberdeen City Council
Aberdeenshire Council
Angus Council
Argyll and Bute Council
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Bedford Borough Council
Birmingham City Council
Blackpool Council
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Bolsover District Council
Bournemouth Borough Council
Bracknell Forest Council
Brighton and Hove City Council
Bristol City Council
Buckinghamshire County Council
Burnley Borough Council
Caerphilly County Borough Council
Calderdale Metropolitan Borough
Cambridge City Council
Cambridgeshire County Council
Camden Council
Cannock Chase District Council
Cardiff Council
Carmarthenshire County Council
Carmarthenshire County Council
Central Bedfordshire Council
Cheshire West and Chester Council
City of Bradford MDC
City of Edinburgh Council
Clackmannanshire Council
Colchester Borough Council
Copeland Borough Council
Coventry City Council
Cumbria County Council
Darlington Borough Council
Devon County Council
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council
Dorset County Council
Dorset Police Force
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Dumfries and Galloway Council
Dundee City Council
East Ayrshire Council
East Dunbartonshire Council
East Lothian Council
East Renfrewshire Council
East Sussex County Council
Epping Forest District Council
Erewash Borough Council
Exeter City Council
Falkirk Council
Fife Council
Fylde Council
Gamlingay Parish Council
Gateshead Council
Glasgow City Council
Halton Metropolitan Borough Council
Hambleton District Council
Hampshire County Council
Harlow District Council
Hartlepool Borough Council
Hastings Borough Council
Herefordshire Council
Hertfordshire County Council
Hinckley and Bosworth Council
Histon and Impington Parish Councils
Hull City Council
Inverclyde Council
Islington Council
Kent County Council
Kirklees Council
Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Lancashire County Council
Lancaster City Council
Leeds City Council
Leicester City Council
Liverpool City Council
London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham
London Borough of Merton
London Borough of Wandsworth
London Borough of Barking and Dagenham
London Borough of Bromley
London Borough of Ealing
London Borough of Greenwich
London Borough of Hackney
London Borough of Haringey
London Borough of Havering
London Borough of Hounslow
London Borough of Lambeth
London Borough of Lewisham
London Borough of Newham

London Borough of Redbridge
London Borough of Tower Hamlets
Longstanton Parish Council
Luton Borough Council
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
Middlesbrough Council
Midlothian Council
Milton Keynes Council
Moray Council
Neath Port Talbot Council
Newport City Council
Norfolk County Council
North Ayrshire Council
North Dorset District Council
North East Lincolnshire Council
North Lanarkshire Council
North Lincolnshire Council
North Somerset Council
North Tyneside Council
North Yorkshire County Council
Nottingham City Council
Oxfordshire County Council
Pembrokeshire County Council
Pennine Lancashire MAA
Perth and Kinross Council
Peterborough City Council
Portsmouth City Council
Powys County Council
Preston City Council
RB Kingston upon Thames
Reading Borough Council
Redcar and Cleveland Borough LSP
Renfrewshire Council
Ribble Valley Borough Council
Richmondshire District Council
Rossendale Borough Council
Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead
Salford City Council
Sandwell metropolitan Borough Council
Scarborough Borough Council
Scottish Borders Council
Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council
Sheffield City Council
Shropshire Council County Training
Slough Borough Council
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Somerset County Council
South Ayrshire Council
South Bucks District Council
South Gloucestershire County Council
South Lanarkshire Council
Southampton City Council
Stevenage Borough Council
Stirling Council
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Stoke on Trent City Council
Suffolk County Council
Surrey County Council
Sussex Police Force
Swansea Council for Voluntary Service
Swindon Borough Council
Telford and Wrekin Council
Thanet District Council
The Highland Council
Torbay Council
Torfaen County Borough Council
Torridge District Council
Trowbridge Town Council
Tyne and Wear City region
Uttlesford District Council
Vale of Glamorgan Council
Wakefield Council
Walsall Council
Warwickshire County Council
Wealden District Council
West Dorset District Council
West Dunbartonshire Council
West Lindsey District Council
West Lothian Council
West Sussex County Council
Westminster City Council
Weymouth and Portland Borough Council
Wiltshire Council
Wokingham Borough Council
Wolverhampton City Council
Worcestershire County Council
Wycombe District Council
Wyre Council

Kevin Brennan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the name is of each partner organisation with which each participating local authority has worked to provide placements for young people on the Future Jobs Fund programme in each of the last six months. [22859]

Chris Grayling: The information has been placed in the Library.

Housing Benefit: Greater London

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of rented accommodation in each London borough which is occupied by recipients of housing benefit. [23642]

Steve Webb: My most recent estimate is that approximately 40% of tenants in the private rented sector receive housing benefit.

This is a national figure; reliable estimates at a local level are not available.

Industrial Health and Safety

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the likely effects on health and safety standards of the implementation of proposals to combine the roles of food safety and health and safety inspectors in local authorities. [22347]

Chris Grayling: Lord Young is working with the Health and Safety Executive, the Food Standards Agency and the Local Government Regulation to take forward his recommendations which were published in his report "Common Sense, Common Safety". Many local authorities already combine food safety and health and safety inspections or have the capability to do this. The intention is to build on existing good practices which are currently used in food premises. Local authorities will continue to respond to health and safety complaints and incidents with a risk based approach. The system will be more standardised, more efficient and more transparent for the consumer.

Mortgage Payments

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the number of people resident in the South East in receipt of support for mortgage interest who have mortgages with interest rates higher than 3.63 per cent.; and if he will estimate the proportion of such people who have mortgages with interest rates higher than 3.63 per cent owing to *(a)* low income and *(b)* poor credit history. [23799]

Steve Webb: This information is not available because the Department does not collect management information on the actual interest rates that apply to support for mortgage interest customers' loans.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has made an estimate of the cost to the public purse of providing housing support to those who will no longer have their eligible mortgage interest outgoings fully met by their benefit awards as a result of lowering the rate of interest used to calculate support for mortgage interest. [22654]

Steve Webb: The standard interest rate used to calculate support for mortgage interest was fixed at 6.08% by the last Administration. That rate was too generous and resulted in the vast majority of people getting more than their eligible mortgage interest liability, which was unfair to taxpayers.

The plans of the previous Government would have meant that the standard interest rate would have reverted to the formula of Bank of England base rate plus 1.58% from January 2011, which at present would produce a rate of 2.08%.

The Chancellor announced in the June 2010 Budget that the standard interest rate would be based on the Bank of England's published monthly average mortgage interest rate. Legislation to introduce this change came into effect from 1 October 2010 and the standard interest rate is currently 3.63%.

The Department conducted thorough analysis on the likely impacts of this change, and we have included as much information as possible in the equality impact assessment published on the Department's website.

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/support-for-mortgage-interest.pdf

Information on the cost to the public purse of providing housing support to those who will no longer have their eligible mortgage interest outgoings fully met by their benefit awards as a result of lowering the rate of interest used to calculate support for mortgage interest is not available

Support for mortgage interest customers would not usually be eligible for other housing support while remaining as an owner occupier.

The Department does not capture information on reasons for ending a benefit claim, including support for mortgage interest, so does not capture the number of claimants who no longer receive support for mortgage interest payments because they have moved into rented accommodation, or the associated costs to the public purse where these customers become eligible for housing benefit. Furthermore, the relationship between arrears and continued home ownership is a complex one dependant on more than the level of support for mortgage interest payable.

The Department is in the process of developing a model to estimate the impact of changes to support for mortgage interest on the number of repossessions. However any estimates will always be limited since detailed case-by-case information, such as arrears at the start of a claim, is not collected by the department. The Department will consider whether the results can be used publicly once this is work is complete.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders has told the Department that it expects lenders to continue to exercise forbearance where it is fair to do so for the borrower, and the borrower has a chance of paying off any arrears in the future. The Council of Mortgage Lenders thinks that where arrears levels increase for some borrowers as a result of the change in the standard interest rate this does not translate into an immediate possession risk.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect on households with disabled residents of changes to the rate of mortgage interest support. [23477]

Steve Webb: The standard interest rate used to calculate support for mortgage interest was fixed at 6.08% by the last administration. That rate was too generous and resulted in the vast majority of people getting more than their eligible mortgage interest liability, which was unfair to taxpayers.

The plans of the previous Government would have meant that the standard interest rate would have reverted to the formula of Bank of England Base rate plus 1.58% from January 2011, which at present would produce a rate of 2.08%.

The Chancellor announced in the June 2010 Budget that the standard interest rate would be based on the Bank of England's published monthly average mortgage interest rate. Legislation to introduce this change came into effect from 1 October 2010 and the standard interest rate is currently 3.63%.

The Department conducted thorough analysis on the likely impacts of this change on different groups, including on disabled people, and we have included as much information on this as possible in the Equality Impact Assessment published on the Department's website.

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/support-for-mortgage-interest.pdf

At the comprehensive spending review 2010, the Chancellor announced a one year extension to the temporary package of Support for Mortgage Interest changes that had been due to expire in January 2011. This extension maintains the waiting period for new working age claimants at 13 weeks and the limit on eligible mortgage capital at £200,000, and provides additional support to homeowners facing difficulties.

Unemployment: Cumbernauld

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the number of workless households in Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch East constituency. [24440]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question for an estimate of the number of workless households in the Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch East constituency. [24440].

The latest available data from the Annual Population Survey (APS) show that in 2009, the number of workless households in the Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch East constituency was estimated to be 5,200. This was out of a total 31,200 households in the constituency.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. This is captured in a confidence interval, defined by lower and upper bounds, such as that the interval formed between the bounds would contain the true value for 95% of all possible samples.

A workless household is defined as a household that contains at least one person aged 16 to 64 and where all individuals aged 16 and over are not in employment.

Work Programme

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to enable small providers to play a role in the Work Programme. [22521]

Chris Grayling: The Work Programme will provide a wide range of opportunities for partnership and collaboration between large and small providers. We anticipate that prime contractors will need to work with appropriate sub-contractors to ensure the individual needs of all customers are met, including those suffering from health conditions or disabilities.

We are encouraging organisations of all sizes from the public, private and voluntary sectors to consider getting involved in the delivery of the Work Programme, and will work with framework providers later this year to help them build links with smaller local providers.

We will also help safeguard sub-contractors by requiring prime contractors to meet the award winning Merlin standard, an independent accreditation of the arrangements between a prime contractor and their sub-contractors/partners.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what mechanism his Department plans to establish to encourage consultation between successful Work Programme contractors and Jobcentre Plus. [22522]

Chris Grayling: All bidders will have access to detailed information about the areas covered by each Work Programme contract package as part of the Specification of Requirements. This will include all Jobcentre Plus services in the locality.

Bidders will be invited to local events to meet representatives from Jobcentre Plus and other strategic partners. This will enable bidders to obtain detailed information about the labour market and about local priorities including the needs of employers and jobseekers, and to ensure that these are addressed in their tenders.

After contracts have been awarded DWP will again facilitate contacts with successful bidders to ensure that Jobcentre Plus is fully conversant with their delivery models and fully engaged in working with providers in planning the implementation of the new service in each locality.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Parliament's Education Service: Finance

Philip Davies: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission how much was spent on the outreach programme in each financial year since it was established; and how much the House of Commons Commission expects to spend on the programme in 2010-11. [24389]

Sir Stuart Bell: The Parliamentary Outreach service was set up following the Administration Committee's 2007 report Improving Facilities for Educational Visitors to Parliament (HC 434 2006-07), which included a recommendation to develop a parliamentary outreach service including regional outreach officers working throughout the UK. The service is being built up over three years, commencing with a pilot year in 2008-09, when the first of the regional outreach officers were appointed.

Parliamentary Outreach is funded jointly with the House of Lords (70:30 split). Costs to the Commons are as follows:

	£
2008-09	165,471
2009-10	457,003
2010-11	[1]575,000

[1] Estimated expenditure

As part of the House-wide savings programme and subject to approval, it is anticipated that there will a reduction in the budget of the outreach programme in future years.

CABINET OFFICE

Citizens' Advice Bureaux

Ben Gummer: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment he has made of the potential contribution of the Citizens Advice Bureau to meeting the objectives of his Big Society initiative. [24512]

Mr Davey: I have been asked to reply.

The Government value highly the work of the independent charities which make up the Citizens Advice Service. It has both high public awareness and is a much trusted source of advice for people from all backgrounds. It equally values the feedback received from bureaux via case studies which helps to hold Government and others to account and is vital in helping to inform and shape future policy.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) already supports the Citizens Advice Service through the provision of annual Grant-in-Aid to its umbrella bodies in England and Wales and in Scotland (Citizens Advice and Citizens Advice Scotland) which it does on behalf of all Government Departments and the Welsh and Scottish Governments. That funding enables both to provide business services to their customers—the national network of Citizens Advice Bureaux in England and Wales and Scotland—which enable them to provide front-line services to the public. Without these national business services (IT infrastructure and content, research, training, and standards), the bureaux would not be able to provide their services to the public.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State also announced on 14 October, changes to the future competition and consumer landscape including proposals to transfer the functions of Consumer Focus and the Consumer Direct helpline, operated by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) to the national bodies for the Citizens Advice service in England and Wales and in Scotland and most of the consumer-related research and advocacy functions, currently undertaken by OFT and Consumer Focus, to the Citizens Advice Service.

http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/consumer-issues

BIS's proposal, on which it will consult publicly in the new year, would see the Citizens Advice Service, together with Trading Standards as the two groups at the centre of our plans for a better model for the future consumer landscape. This fits with both the Government's localism and Big Society agendas.

Civil Servants: Ethnic Groups and Disability

Mr Umunna: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of Civil Service staff was identified as *(a)* being from black and ethnic minority backgrounds and *(b)* disabled in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11 on the latest date for which figures are available. [24029]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning the proportion of Civil Service staff identified as (a) being from black and ethnic minority backgrounds and (b) disabled in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11 on the latest date for which figures are available. (24029)

Civil Service Statistics are published annually by the Office for National Statistics on the National Statistics website.

Statistics for 2010 will be published on 19 November 2010. The requested data for years 2008 and 2009 are attached at Annex A.

Annex A: Civil service employment: proportion of civil service staff declared as (a) black and/or minority ethnic (b) disabled[1]—All employees

		Headcount
	2008[2]	*2009*[2]
All employees	525,160	524,420
All employees with known ethnic origin	415,750	411,370
Black and/or minority ethnic	35,310	36,750
Black and/or minority ethnic as percentage of known ethnic origin	8.5	8.9
All employees with known disability status	375,490	378,650
Disabled	24,620	26,800
Disabled employees as percentage of known disability status	6.6	7.1

[1] Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.
[2] Survey reference date 31 March.
Source:
Annual Civil Service Employment Survey

Corruption: EU Law

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office by what mechanism companies are sanctioned for those foreign bribery-related offences which are monitored in relation to the enforcement of the European Procurement Directives. [24100]

Mr Hurd: UK Regulation 23 of the Public Contracts Regulation 2006 and regulation 26 of the Utilities Contracts Regulations 2006, which implement the respective European Procurement Directives 2004/18/EC and 2004/17/EC, state that a contracting authority having actual knowledge of an economic operator that has been convicted of the offence of bribery should be treated as ineligible and not be selected in the tendering procedure.

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether the implementation of the Bribery Act 2010 will require the amendment of regulations implementing the 2004 European Procurement Directives. [24104]

Mr Hurd: The criteria for the selection of economic operators laid down in the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 and the Utilities Contracts Regulations 2006 will need to be updated so as to refer to the new offences that are contained in the Bribery Act 2010.

Employment: Clwyd

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people were in employment in Vale of Clwyd constituency in each year since 1997. [24234]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2010:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people were employed in Vale of Clwyd constituency in each year since 1997. (24234)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

The Vale of Clwyd parliamentary constituency changed to new boundaries at the 2010 general election. Figures for the current Vale of Clwyd parliamentary constituency are only available from 2004.

Table 1 shows the number of persons in employment resident in the Vale of Clwyd parliamentary constituency for the 12 month periods ending in December from 2004 to 2009 from the APS, along with the latest estimate for the period ending March 2010.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. A guide to the quality of the estimates is given in the table.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number of persons[1] in employment resident in the Vale of Clwyd parliamentary constituency

12 month period	*Thousand*
December 2004	30
December 2005	32
December 2006	29
December 2007	30
December 2008	30
December 2009	31
March 2010[2]	*30

[1] Persons aged 16 and over.

[2] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates, as described below:

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5% we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

CV = Coefficient of Variation

Key:

* 0 = CV<5%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered precise

** 5 = CV <10%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered reasonably precise

*** 10 = CV <20%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered acceptable

**** CV ? 20%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

Source:

Annual Population Survey

Jobseeker's Allowance: Tower Hamlets

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people in *(a)* Bethnal Green and Bow constituency and *(b)* Tower Hamlets had been in receipt of jobseeker's allowance for more than a year in (i) 2008, (ii) 2009 and (iii) 2010. [24182]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people in (a) Bethnal Green and Bow constituency and (b) Tower Hamlets has been in receipt of jobseeker's allowance for more than a year in (i) 2008, (ii) 2009 and (iii) 2010. (24182)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles the number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system.

Table 1 shows the number of persons resident in (a) Bethnal Green and Bow constituency and (b) Tower Hamlets who were claiming of JSA for more than a year in (i) 2008, (ii) 2009 and (iii) 2010. Data has been provided for September 2008, 2009 and 2010 as the latest data available is for the period September 2010.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number of persons claiming jobseeker's allowance for more than one year resident in Bethnal Green and Bow constituency and Tower Hamlets

As at September	*Bethnal Green and Bow*	*Tower Hamlets*
2008	900	1,795
2009	1,095	2,130
2010	1,150	2,345

Note:

Data rounded to nearest 5.

Source:

Jobcentre Plus administrative system

Local Government: Procurement

Dr Phillip Lee: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will place in the Library a copy of guidance issued by the Office of Government Commerce to local authorities on tendering and small and medium-sized enterprises; and if he will make a statement. [24466]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office, through the Efficiency and Reform Group (ERG), provides a range of tools to promote best practice in public procurement that can be found on the OGC website:

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/procurement_-_the_bigger_picture_policy_and_standards_framework.asp

These tools are intended primarily for central Government Departments, including their agencies and non-departmental public bodies, but organisations in the wider public sector may also use them, and many choose to do so.

The website includes specific materials to help public procurers take account of SMEs in procurement exercises.

Lone Parents: Females

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of lone parents in *(a)* the North East and *(b)* England are female. [24476]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your request to ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what percentage of lone parents in (a) the North East and (b) England are female (24476).

The number and type of families in the UK can be estimated using the Annual Population Survey (APS). The latest data available are for 2009. Estimates are provided for lone parent families with at least one dependent child.

In 2009, 92 per cent of lone parents with dependent children were female in both the North East and in England.

Older People

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the likely *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of those aged over 85 years in each local authority area in 2020. [23946]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question to the Minister for the Cabinet Office asking what estimate he has made of the likely *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of those aged over 85 years in each local authority area in 2020 (23946)

The most recent subnational population projections for England are based on the mid-year population estimates for 2008. The projected number and percentage of the population aged 86 and above for each local authority in England in 2020 is given in the attached table.

2008-Based subnational population projections

Table 1: Projected number and percentage of persons aged 86 and over in 2020

Area name	*Persons aged 86 and over (thousand)*	*Persons aged 86 and over (percentage)*
City of London	0.1	0.7
Barking and Dagenham	3.0	1.6
Barnet	9.1	2.4
Bexley	5.6	2.3
Brent	5.2	2.0
Bromley	9.0	2.6
Camden	2.7	1.0
Croydon	7.1	1.9
Ealing	5.4	1.6
Enfield	6.2	2.0
Greenwich	3.8	1.6
Hackney	2.5	1.1
Hammersmith and Fulham	2.7	1.6
Haringey	2.6	1.1
Harrow	5.0	2.0
Havering	6.6	2.6
Hillingdon	5.2	1.8
Hounslow	3.1	1.2
Islington	2.0	1.0
Kensington and Chelsea	5.3	2.8
Kingston upon Thames	3.4	1.7
Lambeth	3.1	1.0
Lewisham	3.1	1.1
Merton	3.9	1.7
Newham	2.5	1.0
Redbridge	4.9	1.6
Richmond upon Thames	3.9	1.8
Southwark	4.0	1.2
Sutton	4.2	2.0
Tower Hamlets	2.1	0.8
Waltham Forest	3.0	1.3
Wandsworth	4.3	1.4
Westminster	4.5	1.5
Bolton	5.4	2.0
Bury	4.2	2.2
Manchester	7.3	1.4
Oldham	4.5	2.0
Rochdale	4.3	2.1
Salford	4.8	2.0
Stockport	7.9	2.7
Tameside	4.7	2.1
Trafford	5.5	2.4
Wigan	6.0	1.9
Knowsley	3.2	2.4
Liverpool	7.9	1.8
St. Helens	3.7	2.1
Sefton	8.7	3.2
Wirral	9.3	3.1
Barnsley	4.9	2.0
Doncaster	7.0	2.3
Rotherham	5.8	2.2
Sheffield	12.4	2.1
Gateshead	4.7	2.4
Newcastle upon Tyne	6.7	2.3
North Tyneside	5.2	2.4
South Tyneside	4.3	2.7
Sunderland	6.5	2.3
Birmingham	20.6	1.9
Coventry	7.0	2.1
Dudley	8.1	2.5
Sandwell	6.4	2.1
Solihull	6.2	2.9
Walsall	6.6	2.5
Wolverhampton	6.4	2.6
Bradford	10.6	1.8
Calderdale	4.8	2.2
Kirklees	8.9	2.0
Leeds	17.7	2.0
Wakefield	8.1	2.4
Hartlepool UA	1.9	2.0
Middlesbrough UA	3.5	2.4
Redcar and Cleveland UA	3.7	2.6
Stockton-on-Tees UA	4.6	2.3
Darlington UA	2.8	2.7
Halton UA	2.1	1.7
Warrington UA	4.4	2.1
Blackburn with Darwen UA	2.3	1.6
Blackpool UA	3.6	2.5
Kingston upon Hull; City of UA	5.0	1.7
East Riding of Yorkshire UA	11.4	3.1
North East Lincolnshire UA	4.2	2.6
North Lincolnshire UA	4.6	2.6
York UA	5.7	2.6
Derby UA	6.3	2.3
Leicester UA	5.1	1.5
Rutland UA	1.5	3.5
Nottingham UA	4.8	1.4

2008-Based subnational population projections

Table 1: Projected number and percentage of persons aged 86 and over in 2020

Area name	*Persons aged 86 and over (thousand)*	*Persons aged 86 and over (percentage)*
Herefordshire: County of UA	6.7	3.6
Telford and Wrekin UA	3.7	2.2
Stoke-on-Trent UA	5.0	2.0
Bath and North East Somerset UA	5.4	2.8
Bristol: City of UA	8.6	1.7
North Somerset UA	8.0	3.2
South Gloucestershire UA	6.9	2.3
Plymouth UA	6.6	2.3
Torbay UA	6.2	4.3
Bournemouth UA	6.5	3.8
Poole UA	5.4	3.6
Swindon UA	4.6	2.0
Peterborough UA	3.5	1.8
Luton UA	3.2	1.5
Southend-on-Sea UA	5.4	3.0
Thurrock UA	3.1	1.7
Medway UA	4.8	1.8
Bracknell Forest UA	2.4	1.9
West Berkshire UA	3.8	2.3
Reading UA	3.3	2.0
Slough UA	2.3	1.6
Windsor and Maidenhead UA	3.9	2.5
Wokingham UA	4.2	2.3
Milton Keynes UA	4.6	1.7
Brighton and Hove UA	6.4	2.4
Portsmouth UA	4.5	2.0
Southampton UA	5.6	2.1
Isle of Wight UA	6.0	3.9
Mid Bedfordshire	2.8	1.9
Bedford	4.4	2.6
South Bedfordshire	3.0	2.3
Aylesbury Vale	4.6	2.5
Chiltern	3.2	3.3
South Bucks	2.4	3.2
Wycombe	4.5	2.7
Cambridge	2.7	2.1
East Cambridgeshire	2.6	2.7
Fenland	3.4	3.2
Huntingdonshire	4.3	2.4
South Cambridgeshire	4.4	2.7
Chester	3.6	3.1
Congleton	3.0	3.1
Crewe and Nantwich	3.2	2.5
Ellesmere Port and Neston	2.1	2.7
Macclesfield	5.5	3.5
Vale Royal	3.6	2.6
Caradon	3.0	3.2
Carrick	3.9	3.9
Kerrier	3.3	3.0
North Cornwall	3.3	3.4
Penwith	2.6	3.9
Restormel	3.6	3.2
Isles of Scilly	0.1	3.3
Allerdale	2.9	3.0
Barrow-in-Furness	1.9	2.6
Carlisle	3.2	2.8
Copeland	1.8	2.5
Eden	1.8	3.4
South Lakeland	4.3	4.0
Amber Valley	3.7	2.9
Bolsover	1.8	2.3
Chesterfield	2.9	2.7
Derbyshire Dales	2.6	3.6
Erewash	3.1	2.7
High Peak	3.0	3.0
North East Derbyshire	2.8	2.8
South Derbyshire	2.2	2.1
East Devon	6.8	4.6
Exeter	3.5	2.7
Mid Devon	2.6	3.1
North Devon	3.4	3.4
South Hams	3.1	3.5
Teignbridge	5.6	4.1
Torridge	2.4	3.3
West Devon	2.0	3.4
Christchurch	2.4	4.7
East Dorset	4.1	4.3
North Dorset	2.4	3.5
Purbeck	1.9	3.9
West Dorset	5.0	4.9
Weymouth and Portland	2.5	3.9
Chester-le-Street	1.4	2.6
Derwentside	2.4	2.5
Durham	1.9	1.8
Easington	2.3	2.3
Sedgefield	2.2	2.4
Teesdale	0.7	3.0
Wear Valley	1.7	2.4
Eastbourne	4.6	4.2
Hastings	2.6	2.8
Lewes	4.6	4.5
Rother	4.8	4.9
Wealden	5.9	3.9
Basildon	4.4	2.2
Braintree	4.4	2.7
Brentwood	2.6	3.1
Castle Point	3.1	3.3
Chelmsford	4.3	2.3
Colchester	4.6	2.2
Epping Forest	3.7	2.8
Harlow	2.0	2.4
Maldon	2.0	2.8
Rochford	2.6	2.9
Tendring	7.6	4.5
Uttlesford	2.3	2.8
Cheltenham	3.9	3.2

2008-Based subnational population projections

Table 1: Projected number and percentage of persons aged 86 and over in 2020

Area name	*Persons aged 86 and over (thousand)*	*Persons aged 86 and over (percentage)*
Cotswold	3.1	3.5
Forest of Dean	2.6	3.0
Gloucester	2.9	2.3
Stroud	3.6	3.1
Tewkesbury	2.8	3.2
Basingstoke and Deane	3.6	2.0
East Hampshire	3.8	3.2
Eastleigh	3.2	2.4
Fareham	4.5	3.8
Gosport	2.5	2.8
Hart	2.4	2.3
Havant	4.6	3.8
New Forest	8.6	4.5
Rushmoor	2.5	2.5
Test Valley	3.6	3.0
Winchester	4.1	3.4
Broxbourne	2.2	2.3
Dacorum	4.0	2.7
East Hertfordshire	3.9	2.7
Hertsmere	3.2	3.0
North Hertfordshire	4.1	3.0
St Albans	3.5	2.3
Stevenage	1.7	2.0
Three Rivers	2.8	2.9
Watford	1.8	1.9
Welwyn Hatfield	3.1	2.3
Ashford	3.6	2.8
Canterbury	4.6	2.8
Dartford	2.3	2.1
Dover	3.8	3.4
Gravesham	2.6	2.4
Maidstone	4.3	2.6
Sevenoaks	3.8	3.0
Shepway	3.4	3.1
Swale	3.0	2.1
Thanet	4.4	3.1
Tonbridge and Malling	3.2	2.4
Tunbridge Wells	3.4	3.0
Burnley	2.2	2.6
Chorley	2.5	2.2
Fylde	3.1	4.0
Hyndburn	1.8	2.2
Lancaster	4.0	2.7
Pendle	2.2	2.4
Preston	2.5	1.8
Ribble Valley	1.7	2.8
Rossendale	1.4	2.0
South Ribble	2.7	2.4
West Lancashire	2.9	2.6
Wyre	3.9	3.3
Blaby	2.8	2.8
Charnwood	4.3	2.4
Harborough	2.7	2.9
Hinckley and Bosworth	2.9	2.5
Melton	1.4	2.8
North West Leicestershire	2.4	2.5
Oadby and Wigston	1.9	3.0
Boston	1.9	2.9
East Lindsey	5.5	3.5
Lincoln	2.5	2.8
North Kesteven	3.4	2.9
South Holland	3.3	3.5
South Kesteven	4.1	2.9
West Lindsey	2.9	2.9
Breckland	5.0	3.5
Broadland	4.5	3.3
Great Yarmouth	3.2	3.0
King's Lynn and West Norfolk	5.3	3.4
North Norfolk	5.3	4.7
Norwich	3.7	2.3
South Norfolk	4.1	3.1
Corby	1.1	1.8
Daventry	1.9	2.2
East Northamptonshire	2.4	2.5
Kettering	2.3	2.3
Northampton	4.8	2.0
South Northamptonshire	2.2	2.2
Wellingborough	1.7	2.1
Alnwick	1.1	3.0
Berwick-upon-Tweed	1.4	5.1
Blyth Valley	1.8	2.2
Castle Morpeth	1.6	3.1
Tynedale	2.1	3.5
Wansbeck	1.7	2.6
Craven	2.3	3.9
Hambleton	2.9	3.2
Harrogate	5.8	3.5
Richmondshire	1.5	2.6
Ryedale	1.9	3.4
Scarborough	3.9	3.4
Selby	2.0	2.2
Ashfield	2.8	2.3
Bassetlaw	3.2	2.7
Broxtowe	2.9	2.4
Gedling	3.4	2.8
Mansfield	2.7	2.6
Newark and Sherwood	3.3	2.7
Rushcliffe	3.5	2.9
Cherwell	3.7	2.5
Oxford	2.9	1.9
South Oxfordshire	4.0	2.9
Vale of White Horse	3.7	3.0
West Oxfordshire	3.9	3.4
Bridgnorth	1.9	3.5
North Shropshire	2.2	3.4
Oswestry	1.4	3.0
Shrewsbury and Atcham	3.3	3.4
South Shropshire	1.9	4.1
Mendip	3.8	3.3

2008-Based subnational population projections

Table 1: Projected number and percentage of persons aged 86 and over in 2020

Area name	*Persons aged 86 and over (thousand)*	*Persons aged 86 and over (percentage)*
Sedgemoor	3.8	3.1
South Somerset	6.0	3.5
Taunton Deane	4.4	3.7
West Somerset	2.1	5.7
Cannock Chase	2.0	2.1
East Staffordshire	3.1	2.7
Lichfield	3.0	2.8
Newcastle-under-Lyme	3.5	2.7
South Staffordshire	3.6	3.4
Stafford	3.9	2.9
Staffordshire Moorlands	3.0	3.0
Tamworth	1.6	2.0
Babergh	3.4	3.7
Forest Heath	1.5	2.1
Ipswich	3.2	2.2
Mid Suffolk	3.2	2.9
St Edmundsbury	3.3	3.0
Suffolk Coastal	5.1	3.5
Waveney	4.8	3.7
Elmbridge	4.3	3.0
Epsom and Ewell	2.1	2.6
Guildford	3.6	2.5
Mole Valley	3.0	3.3
Reigate and Banstead	4.3	2.8
Runnymede	2.6	2.9
Spelthorne	2.8	2.9
Surrey Heath	2.3	2.6
Tandridge	3.1	3.5
Waverley	4.6	3.7
Woking	2.6	2.6
North Warwickshire	1.6	2.5
Nuneaton and Bedworth	2.9	2.3
Rugby	2.7	2.6
Stratford-on-Avon	4.3	3.3
Warwick	4.1	2.6
Adur	2.0	3.1
Arun	7.6	4.6
Chichester	4.7	3.8
Crawley	3.1	2.6
Horsham	4.6	3.3
Mid Sussex	4.4	3.1
Worthing	4.3	3.8
Kennet	2.3	2.8
North Wiltshire	3.7	2.5
Salisbury	4.2	3.5
West Wiltshire	4.7	3.3
Bromsgrove	3.5	3.5
Malvern Hills	3.4	4.3
Redditch	1.7	2.1
Worcester	2.2	2.3
Wychavon	3.9	3.2
Wyre Forest	3.2	3.1

Notes:

The subnational population projections are demographic trend based projections that indicate what the population of an area is likely to be if recently observed trends in fertility, mortality and migration were to continue. They take no account of future policies or developments which may affect trends.

For details about the methodology used to produce the 2008-based subnational population projections please see the Methodology Guide at the following web page:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_population/snpp-2008/2008_based_SNPP_Methodology_Guide.pdf

For further information regarding methodology please email: snpp@ons.gov.uk

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Office for National Statistics

Older People: Females

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of people over 50 years old resident in *(a)* Newcastle upon Tyne North constituency, *(b)* the north-east and *(c)* England are female. [24472]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your question asking what percentage of people over 50 years resident in (a) Newcastle Upon Tyne North Constituency, (b) the north-east and (c) England are female (24472).

The table below shows the number of females aged over 50 years as a percentage of the total population aged over 50 years, for the latest year for which data are available.

		Percentage
	Mid-2007	*Mid-2009*
Newcastle upon Tyne North	55.0	[1]—
North East	53.7	53.4
England	53.6	53.4

[1] Data not available. *Source:* Office for National Statistics.

Public Sector: Procurement

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps he plans to take to encourage public bodies to observe the 2009 guidance of the Office of Government Commerce, Promoting skills through public procurement, as part of their procurement procedures. [24479]

Mr Maude: The primary purpose of Government procurement is to buy goods and services the Government need, at the best combination of quality and whole-life costs to obtain the best value for money.

Departments are free to build skills and apprenticeships requirements into their procurement exercises, where relevant and consistent with Government procurement policy and EU treaty principles of openness, non-discrimination and proportionality. Decisions on the inclusion of such requirements have to be taken on a case-by-case basis, driven by the imperative of optimising value for money.

Unemployment: Wales

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people were unemployed in each constituency in Wales in each month since January 2010. [24236]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2010:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people were unemployed in each constituency in Wales in each month since January 2010. (24236)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics in line with International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS). Unfortunately the sample size does not support analyses of unemployment for the requested geography.

As an alternative, in Table 1, we have provided the number of persons resident in each constituency in Wales claiming Jobseeker's Allowance since January 2010. Data has been provided for January 2010 to the latest period September 2010.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Persons claiming jobseeker's allowance resident in each constituency in Wales

Number

Parliamentary constituency	*January 2010*	*February 2010*	*March 2010*	*April 2010*	*May 2010*	*June 2010*	*July 2010*	*August 2010*	*September 2010*
Aberavon	1,833	1,833	1,722	1,688	1,596	1,537	1,528	1,510	1,496
Aberconwy	1,290	1,341	1,302	1,145	1,072	1,018	1,019	1,027	979
Alyn and Deeside	1,910	1,956	1,963	1,870	1,734	1,646	1,676	1,688	1,661
Arfon	1,556	1,592	1,516	1,469	1,402	1,348	1,360	1,336	1,229
Blaenau Gwent	3,475	3,419	3,246	3,202	2,991	2,850	2,849	2,891	2,838
Brecon and Radnorshire	1,162	1,155	1,095	1,041	975	921	916	937	911
Bridgend	1,927	1,982	1,824	1,798	1,672	1,593	1,653	1,735	1,684
Caerphilly	2,976	2,977	2,879	2,840	2,668	2,560	2,521	2,571	2,525
Cardiff Central	2,374	2,430	2,413	2,384	2,305	2,170	2,296	2,362	2,375
Cardiff North	1,489	1,498	1,433	1,469	1,416	1,331	1,347	1,410	1,414
Cardiff South and Penarth	3,496	3,586	3,592	3,513	3,473	3,325	3,296	3,354	3,310
Cardiff West	2,842	2,883	2,810	2,736	2,638	2,519	2,514	2,595	2,628
Carmarthen East and Dinefwr	1,186	1,172	1,149	1,079	971	930	939	1,007	1,029
Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire	1,662	1,605	1,482	1,333	1,270	1,268	1,251	1,272	1,257
Ceredigion	1,028	1,040	968	890	822	791	824	799	818
Clwyd South	1,911	1,915	1,849	1,770	1,608	1,491	1,494	1,519	1,512
Clwyd West	1,761	1,759	1,699	1,591	1,512	1,457	1,451	1,445	1,421
Cynon Valley	2,413	2,362	2,297	2,209	2,058	1,959	1,978	2,059	2,049
Delyn	1,714	1,750	1,721	1,644	1,534	1,407	1,461	1,454	1,380
Dwyfor Meirionnydd	1,156	1,120	1,002	849	748	696	687	710	687
Gower	1,430	1,452	1,403	1,336	1,207	1,124	1,148	1,157	1,131
Islwyn	2,455	2,420	2,320	2,222	2,074	1,964	1,931	1,929	1,935
Llanelli	2,091	2,134	2,065	2,014	1,940	1,840	1,853	1,884	1,870
Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney	3,310	3,212	3,081	3,029	2,874	2,791	2,808	2,838	2,803
Monmouth	1,501	1,507	1,455	1,362	1,241	1,174	1,208	1,231	1,179
Montgomeryshire	946	940	884	835	756	673	681	729	730
Neath	1,885	1,884	1,842	1,809	1,703	1,581	1,595	1,622	1,578
Newport East	2,570	2,605	2,559	2,495	2,094	1,968	1,973	1,954	1,950
Newport West	2,710	2,759	2,695	2,624	2,571	2,423	2,409	2,399	2,335

Table 1: Persons claiming jobseeker's allowance resident in each constituency in Wales

Number

Parliamentary constituency	*January 2010*	*February 2010*	*March 2010*	*April 2010*	*May 2010*	*June 2010*	*July 2010*	*August 2010*	*September 2010*
Ogmore	2,358	2,275	2,193	2,108	1,989	1,878	1,839	1,938	1,894
Pontypridd	1,992	1,920	1,870	1,849	1,666	1,564	1,556	1,611	1,545
Preseli Pembrokeshire	1,544	1,521	1,315	1,236	1,342	1,380	1,400	1,439	1,451
Rhondda	2,778	2,739	2,577	2,461	2,226	2,126	2,196	2,250	2,294
Swansea East	2,398	2,366	2,344	2,306	2,181	2,091	2,081	2,122	2,032
Swansea West	2,147	2,075	2,090	2,014	1,909	1,863	1,860	1,953	1,875
Torfaen	2,810	2,702	2,584	2,513	2,343	2,210	2,164	2,265	2,220
Vale of Clwyd	2,242	2,229	2,130	1,963	1,836	1,748	1,732	1,764	1,795
Vale of Glamorgan	2,726	2,766	2,727	2,660	2,516	2,329	2,317	2,370	2,398
Wrexham	1,976	1,963	1,921	1,867	1,740	1,627	1,619	1,676	1,654
Ynys Mon	2,144	2,142	2,075	1,934	1,893	1,791	1,780	1,741	1,715
Total	83,174	82,986	80,092	77,157	72,566	68,962	69,210	70,553	69,587

Source: Jobcentre Plus administrative system.

JUSTICE

Conditional Fee Agreement

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of implementing the proposed transition from the conditional fee agreement scheme to the proposed contingency fees scheme; [24161]

(2) what estimate he has made of the likely effect on the number of claims of the implementation of his proposal for a contingency fees scheme; [24162]

(3) what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the likely effects on the level of fairness in respect of access to the justice system of the implementation of his proposal for the replacement of conditional fee agreements with a contingency fees scheme; [24163]

(4) what estimate he has made of the average annual saving to the Exchequer consequent on the implementation of his proposals to end conditional fee agreements; [24164]

(5) what estimate he has made of the net effect on Exchequer revenue, taking into account the estimated change in the number of litigation actions against the Government, of the proposed replacement of conditional fee agreements with a contingency fees scheme in each of the first five years of the operation of that proposed scheme. [24165]

Mr Djanogly: As my right hon. and learned Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor informed the House on 15 November *Official Report*, columns 659-72, the Government have now published the consultation paper, 'Proposals for Reform of Civil Litigation Funding and Costs: Implementation of Lord Justice Jackson's Recommendations'. This includes proposals relating to the reform of conditional fee agreements (CFAs) and damages-based agreements (DBAs) or contingency fees. I should make it clear that Sir Rupert Jackson did not recommend replacing CFAs with contingency fees or DBAs. Rather he suggested that CFAs should be reformed and that DBAs should be permitted in litigation as an additional funding mechanism. That is what we are consulting on.

The intention is to increase the choice of funding options available to claimants to pursue necessary claims. Sir Rupert is of the view that implementing his proposals, particularly those on the reform of CFAs, would deliver significant costs savings including for Government. The consultation paper and preliminary impact assessments are available on the Ministry of Justice website:

www.justice.gov.uk

We are seeking further data from those responding to the consultation.

Departmental Lobbying

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent from the public purse on influencing public policy through *(a)* employing external (i) public affairs companies, (ii) strategic consultancies and (iii) corporate communications firms, *(b)* external marketing and *(c)* other activities in each year since its inception. [23765]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) does not centrally collate data on expenditure on influencing public policy. It would incur disproportionate costs to examine every transaction made relating to public affairs companies, strategic consultancies, corporate communications firms and external marketing.

It is though possible to provide information relating to the MoJ, its agencies and NDPBs' total expenditure on consultants since 2007, and the MoJ and its agencies' expenditure on external marketing since 2008.

The total expenditure on consultants for the MoJ, its agencies and NDPBs (rounded to the nearest million pounds) was:

	£
2007-08	61,000,000
2008-09	53,000,000
2009-10	42,000,000

The MoJ's definition for consultancy is:

"Professional services provided by, for example, lawyers, surveyors and architects and the employment of specialists on an interim basis to deliver project solutions, providing expertise for a defined period of time that is not available in-house."

For external marketing, the expenditure provided is for the MoJ and its agencies but not the NDPBs. Many NDPBs; including but not limited to the Legal Services Board, the Information Commissioner's Office and the Legal Ombudsman, do not spend any of their budgets on external marketing or informing public policy. Other NDPBs do not record their external marketing expenditure separately from their total communications spend. It would incur disproportionate cost to indentify external marketing expenditure for the NDPBs.

I have provided the information for 2008-09 and 2009-10. Due to changes in the MoJ's organisational structure it would not be possible to indentify the external marketing expenditure for 2007-08 without incurring disproportionate cost.

The total expenditure on external marketing for MOJ and its agencies (rounded to the nearest million pounds) was:

	£
2008-09	4,000,000
2009-10	5,000,000

Magistrates Courts: Sentencing

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases have been brought before each magistrates court in each of the last two years; and how many of those cases resulted in a custodial sentence. [24392]

Mr Blunt: I am placing in the House Library the information requested on how many cases brought before each local justice area in each of the last two years (2008 and 2009 latest available); and how many resulted in a custodial sentence. The tables include defendants proceeded against, found guilty, sentenced and a sentence breakdown, including those given a custodial sentence.

The lowest level at which sentencing data are collected is at local justice area. local justice areas are used to determine which magistrates courts may hear a particular case.

Prisoners: Self-Harm

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many incidents of self-harm were recorded amongst *(a)* male and *(b)* female prisoners in the most recent year for which figures are available. [24566]

Mr Blunt: The information requested is in the following table:

2009

	Number
Self-harm incidents	
Male and Female	24,114
Male	13,688
Female	10,426
Individuals self-harming[1]	
Male and Female	6,977
Male	5,403
Female	1,574

[1] The numbers of different individuals are based on prison numbers. An individual who was in prison custody on two occasions during a year but with two different numbers would be counted twice if he/she had self harmed at least once each time.

Data Sources and Quality:

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems. Care is taken when processing and analysing the returns but the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system. Although the figures are shown to the last individual the figures may not be accurate to that level.

NOMS has a broad, integrated and evidence-based prisoner suicide prevention and self harm management strategy that seeks to reduce the distress of all those in prison. This encompasses a wide spectrum of Prison and Department of Health work around such issues as mental health, substance misuse and resettlement. Any prisoner identified as at risk of suicide or self-harm is cared for using the assessment, care in custody and teamwork (ACCT) procedures.

Prisoners: Taxation

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he has had with HM Revenue and Customs on the taxation of the earnings of prisoners who undertake paid work in prison. [24177]

Mr Blunt: I have not had any discussions with HM Revenue and Customs on this matter. The average earnings of prisoners undertaking paid work in prison are £9.60 per week.

Prisons

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of children in *(a)* England and Wales, *(b)* London and *(c)* the south-east have at least one parent in prison. [24563]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice does not hold data on the proportion of children in *(a)* England and Wales, *(b)* London and *(c)* the south-east who have at least one parent in prison. However, according to a self-report survey of 1,435 adult prisoners sentenced to between one month and four years in England and Wales in 2005-06, 54% of prisoners had children under the age of 18 at the time of imprisonment.

Prisons: Crimes of Violence

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many incidents of attacks on *(a)* prison staff and *(b)* prisoners were recorded in prisons where the victim (i) was and (ii) was not hospitalised in each of the last 10 years; [24561]

(2) how many incidents of attacks on *(a)* prison staff and *(b)* prisoners were recorded in prisons where (i) a weapon and (ii) no weapon was used in each of the last 10 years. [24562]

Mr Blunt: The information requested is set out in the following tables.

Recorded prisoner-on-staff and prisoner-on-prisoner assaults by hospitalisation: 2000-09

	2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Actual assaults requiring hospital visit	148	143	156	196	235	263	235	211	237	196
Prisoner on staff: hospital visit[1]	24	27	19	35	50	43	43	37	39	40
Prisoner on staff: No hospital visit	2,168	2,673	2,832	2,858	3,154	3,459	3,487	3,236	3,172	2,833
Total assaults on staff	2,192	2,700	2,851	2,893	3,204	3,502	3,530	3,273	3,211	2,873
Prisoner-on-prisoner: hospital visit[1]	123	118	138	166	187	225	198	173	203	159
Prisoner-on-prisoner: No hospital visit	7,087	7,862	8,604	8,837	9,280	10,667	11,332	11,845	12,631	11,988
Total assaults prisoner-on-prisoner assaults	7,210	7,980	8,742	9,003	9,467	10,892	11,530	12,018	12,834	12,147

Recorded prisoner-on-staff and prisoner-on-prisoner assaults by weapon-use: 2000-09

	2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Actual assaults where weapon was use	1,111	1,093	1,178	1,529	1,380	1,637	1,686	1,786	1,732	1,599
Prisoner on staff: Weapon used[2]	325	317	308	456	391	449	460	433	434	371
Prisoner on staff: No weapon used	1,867	2,383	2,543	2,437	2,813	3,053	3,070	2,840	2,777	2,502
Total assaults on staff	2,192	2,700	2,851	2,893	3,204	3,502	3,530	3,273	3,211	2,873
Prisoner-on-prisoner: Weapon used[2]	797	790	890	1,091	1,003	1,189	1,229	1,368	1,326	1,206
Prisoner-on-prisoner: No weapon used	6,413	7,190	7,852	7,912	8,464	9,703	10,301	10,650	1,508	10,941
Total assaults prisoner-on-prisoner assaults	7,210	7,980	8,742	9,003	9,467	10,892	11,530	12,018	12,834	12,147

[1] The hospital attendances in this table refer to those arising immediately from assault incidents. They do NOT include other types of hospital attendance such as A and E or overnight visits nor do they include any subsequent hospital visits that may be required to continue treatment.

[2] The majority of assault incidents do not involve weapons. Of those that do most involve items that may be found to hand. Relatively few involve an actually designed for purpose weapon.

Note:

Numbers of assaults requiring hospital and the numbers involving weapons, in these tables will exceed the actual numbers (in the 2nd rows). This is due to double counting in the assault classifications.

Prisons: Drugs

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to reduce the incidence of *(a)* drug and *(b)* mobile telephone smuggling in prisons. [24564]

Mr Blunt: Prisons deploy a robust and comprehensive range of security measures to reduce drug supply. These include the use of drug detection dogs, close working with the police, CCTV, use of more effective intelligence systems and mandatory drug testing.

NOMS has implemented a strategy to 'minimise' the number of mobile phones entering prisons, to 'find' phones that do get in and to 'disrupt' mobile phones that cannot be found.

Drug misuse in prisons, as measured by random mandatory drug testing, has declined by 68% since 1996-97.

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what monetary value of drugs of each class was seized on the prison estate in each of the last five years. [24565]

Mr Blunt: The market value of drugs varies widely between regions and over periods of time. Information on the value of drugs seized in prisons is not routinely available.

Prisons: Young People

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many young adults entered the prison system for the first time in each of the last three years. [24558]

Mr Blunt: The table shows figures for offenders receiving their first immediate custodial sentence at the age of 18 to 20, as recorded on the police national computer. These figures are derived from table 6.3 of "Sentencing Statistics: England and Wales 2009" which was published on 21 October 2010.

Offenders aged 18-20 receiving an immediate custodial sentence for an indictable offence, with no previous custodial sentences, 2007 to 2009, England and Wales

	Number of offenders aged 18-20 sentenced to immediate custody	*Number of offenders aged 18-20 receiving their first immediate custodial sentence*
2007	12,601	5,949
2008	12,524	5,791

Offenders aged 18-20 receiving an immediate custodial sentence for an indictable offence, with no previous custodial sentences, 2007 to 2009, England and Wales

	Number of offenders aged 18-20 sentenced to immediate custody	*Number of offenders aged 18-20 receiving their first immediate custodial sentence*
2009	12,108	5,705

The figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer, which, as with any large-scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

Rape: Victim Support Schemes

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 18 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 541W, on rape: victim support schemes, what funding will be available for *(a)* existing and *(b)* new rape crisis centres in the comprehensive spending review period. [24621]

Mr Blunt: The commitment to provide long-term, sustainable funding to existing rape crisis centres and to establish new centres where need is most acute remains a priority for the Government.

Following the conclusion of the comprehensive spending review and the allocation of the departmental settlement, work is ongoing within the Ministry of Justice to finalise budgets, including funds allocated to the rape crisis commitment.

An announcement on how we will implement the commitment will be made in the new year.

Reoffenders: Public Expenditure

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he made of the likely effects of the outcomes of the comprehensive spending review on reoffending rates. [24166]

Mr Blunt: The Government believe that by introducing more effective sentencing policies and rehabilitative services we can deliver greater reductions in reoffending, deter future crime and protect the public. We will publish our proposals for a new approach to sentencing and rehabilitation, and how we will deliver more for less, in a Green Paper to be published in December. The Green Paper will be open to public consultation. We are conducting a full impact assessment of these proposals.

Young Offender Institutions: Public Expenditure

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost to the public purse was of detaining an offender in a young offender's institution in the last three years for which figures are available. [24559]

Mr Blunt: Tables 1 to 3 provides the average cost per place in a young offender's institution (YOI) for young people aged 15 to 18. These figures are for the last three financial years.

The figures provided are not intended to represent the total cost of providing custody and related services to young people. The calculation is based upon allocated budget funding at the beginning of the relevant financial years, rather than actual expenditure at the close of those years.

While the methodology for calculating costs are the same for 2010-11 and 2009-10, it differs for 2008-09 and therefore caution should be taken when directly comparing the costs for 2008-09 with subsequent years.

Where—due to changes in commissioning and budgetary responsibilities across Government and agencies—the costs include different funding streams, the notes on the bottom of each table detail this.

The figures provided have been rounded to the nearest £1,000.

Table 1

Secure estate sector	*Average cost to the YJB per place per year as at 1 April 2010 (£)*
YOI (including private)	59,000

Notes:
1. These are costs to the Youth Justice Board (YJB) as at 1 April 2010. They are not intended to represent the total cost of providing custody and related services to young people—specific exclusions follow.
2. Differences in the YJB funding streams included for these 2010-11 costs from the costs published for 1 April 2009 (2009-10 costs) are that:
The YJB no longer funds education in public YOIs (see note 6);
YJB funding for Advocacy Services is included (see note 4);
YJB funding for services provided by the Lucy Faithfull Foundation is included (see note 6).
3. These figures do not include VAT on Private YOI places.
4. Advocacy Services funded by the YJB are included in YOI costs.
5. These costs do not include YJB funding to National Offender Management Service (NOMS) prisoner escort management (PEM) for the provision of prison escort and custodial services (PECS) for young people.
6. For the YOI cost:
As of 1 April 2010, the YJB is no longer responsible for the budget for education funding and so this cost is not included in the above;
The YJB is not responsible for health funding budgets—except where specific services are commissioned (i.e. at the Keppel Unit)—and so the cost of health services in not included in the above;
For public YOIs, NOMS estimated that central overhead costs (excluding those for the Young People's Team) apportionable to the YJB at £7.601 million; the cost above uses the actual funding received from MOJ for these overheads of £5.070 million.
For public YOIs, the NOMS business rates, maintenance charges, capital charges and overheads for these charges have been estimated based upon 2009-10 levels and inflated;
YJB funding for the Lucy Faithfull Foundation is included.

Table 2

Secure estate sector	*Average price per place per year as at 1 April 2009 (£)*
YOI (including private)	60,000

Notes:
1. These figures do not include VAT on private YOI places.
2. The education costs paid to the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is the agreed funding amount as at 1 April 2009 and is included. (The contracts were refreshed from August 2009).
3. Contributions to primary care trusts (PCTs) are at 2008-09 rates (no uplift has been applied to these) and is included.
4. The NOMS business rates, maintenance and capital charge elements of the public YOI costs have been included for 2009-10.
5. JASP (Juvenile Awareness Staff Programme) funding is included.

Table 3

Secure estate sector	*Average price per place per year as at 1 April 2008 (£)*
YOI (not including private)	59,000

Notes:

1. This figure is based upon YJB funding for Prison Service (public) YOI places it does not include private YOI places commissioned at HMYOIs Ashfield and Parc.
2. The NOMS capital charges and business rates are included, but not maintenance charges.
3. The YJB contribution to PCT funding for health care is included.
4. The YJB contribution towards LSC funding for education is included.

HEALTH

Atos Healthcare

James Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the reasons were for the cancellation of contracts between his Department and Atos Healthcare in the last five years. [24068]

Paul Burstow: The Department engaged Atos Healthcare as its provider of Occupational Health Services, from October 2006 to June 2010.

The period of Atos' contract ended, as planned, and the Department's Occupational Health provision was re-tendered through a full competitive Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) procurement exercise.

Breast Cancer

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what further steps he plans to take to reduce mortality from breast cancer; and if he will make a statement. [24145]

Paul Burstow: Steps to reduce mortality from breast cancer will be taken through our public health strategy, cancer drugs fund and refreshed cancer reform strategy.

Lifestyle behaviours such as smoking, the harmful use of alcohol, drug misuse, poor diet and nutrition, being overweight and physical inactivity are acknowledged risk factors for a number of chronic diseases, including breast cancer. Later this year, we will publish a public health White Paper setting out details of our strategy for improving public health and reducing the risk factors associated with developing conditions such as breast cancer.

Diagnosing cancer earlier is also important in reducing mortality. Experts estimate that the NHS breast screening programme saves 1,400 lives per year by diagnosing cancer earlier. The Cancer Reform Strategy (CRS) included the commitment that the NHS breast screening programme would be extended to women aged 47 to 73. In June this year, we confirmed in the "Revision to the NHS Operating Framework 2010-11" that all local breast screening programmes should begin the extension in 2010-11 ensuring that more women have the opportunity to benefit from the screening service.

In September, as part of the national awareness and early diagnosis initiative, we announced that £9 million would be provided to support 59 campaigns that will work to raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of breast, bowel and lung cancers and to encourage early presentation at a general practitioner surgery.

Through the Cancer Drugs Fund, we will give cancer patients better access to the drugs that their clinicians believe will help them, and on 1 October, we allocated £50 million to the NHS to enable cancer patients to access appropriate drugs now. Following the spending review, we have committed £200 million per year for the drugs fund for the next three years, and are consulting on proposals for establishment of the fund.

We are also undertaking a review of the CRS to ensure that we have the right strategy to deliver improved outcomes for cancer patients including survival and mortality. We plan to publish the report later this winter.

Cancer: Health Services

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what his most recent estimate is of the cost to the public purse of an emergency hospital admission for a patient whose primary diagnosis is haematological cancer; [24101]

(2) what his most recent estimate is of the cost to the public purse of an emergency admission to hospital in each NHS trust area of a patient whose primary diagnosis is haematological cancer; [24102]

(3) what his most recent estimate is of the average length of hospital stay for an emergency admission of a patient whose primary diagnosis is haematological cancer. [24103]

Paul Burstow: For 2008-09, the average length of hospital stay for an emergency admission of a patient whose primary diagnosis was haematological cancer was 10.7 days. This is the latest period for which statistics are available.

Information on the average cost to the public purse of an emergency admission for a patient whose primary diagnosis is haematological cancer cannot be provided at national or trust level because the Department does not collect costs to the public purse by primary diagnosis.

The Department collects the costs to national health service providers of providing standard groupings of clinically similar treatments, known as healthcare resource groups (HRGs). Information on the estimated costs, at both national and trust level, of a non-elective admission for the HRGs that represent haematological procedures and disorders in 2008-09 has been placed in the Library. This does not include the costs of chemotherapy, which cannot be separately identified by primary diagnosis.

Childbirth

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many births he expects there to be in NHS facilities in each of the next five years; and what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of such births which will require specialist care. [24226]

Anne Milton: Information is not available in the format requested. Maternity services are planned at a local level, rather than national level, to ensure they are responsive to local need.

In 2009 there were 663,490 maternity episodes in England of which 641,832 (approximately 96.7%) were births in national health service hospitals. In 2009, there were 43,786 admissions into neonatal care, which amounts to some 7% of the total number of births in NHS hospitals.

Circumcision

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons the NHS funds non-medical circumcisions; and if he will issue guidance to healthcare commissioners on the priority to be accorded to such procedures. [24114]

Paul Burstow: The national health service normally only performs circumcision where medically indicated. However, a primary care trust has a duty to protect the health of the public in their area and may decide to ensure that a safe and affordable male circumcision service is available in other circumstances, where there are concerns about harm to patients. There are currently no plans for the Secretary of State to issue guidance to health care commissioners on male circumcision.

Dementia

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons his Department's estimated expenditure on dementia research declined from 2.9 per cent. in 2007-08 to 1.4 per cent. in 2009-10 of expenditure from the research and development revenue budget. [24433]

Paul Burstow: The figures show a decline in dementia research funding which reflects a more transparent and accurate method for assessing disease-specific research and development (R and D) spend.

Prior to the establishment of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) in April 2006, the main part of the Department's total health expenditure was devolved to and managed by national health service organisations. From April 2006 to March 2009, transitional research funding was allocated to these organisations at reducing levels. At the same time, an increasing amount of NHS research funding was awarded competitively through new NIHR programmes and schemes.

The NHS organisations reported on their use of these allocations in annual R and D reports, and each report included a figure of research spend on degenerative neurological disorders. These figures have been included in the Department's estimates of total annual spend on dementia research up to 2008-09.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many members of staff were employed in the ministerial correspondence unit of his Department in each of the last two years. [24016]

Anne Milton: The customer service centre uses a significant proportion of non-permanent workers within the correspondence teams in order to maintain maximum flexibility to meet the Department's targets for responding to correspondence. Therefore, the number of staff in post at any one time fluctuates on a daily basis.

At 1 April 2009 there were 56.7 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff in post working in the customer service centre correspondence unit of which 32.2 were permanent FTE staff and 24.5 were agency staff filling FTE posts.

At 1 April 2010, there were 57.94 full-time equivalent staff in post of which 33.74 were permanent FTE staff and 24.2 were agency staff filling FTE posts. The correspondence unit processes, on average, 86,000 pieces of correspondence per year.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each of its Ministers in *(a)* September and *(b)* October 2010; [21783]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of its expenditure on travel undertaken by *(a)* him and *(b)* each other Minister in his Department in (i) September and (ii) October 2010. [21855]

Anne Milton: The information held on the Department's business management system is as shown in the following table. Due to retrospective billing by the Government Car Service, and the procedures employed by the Department which score expenditure on the system in the month in which an invoice is processed and paid, the figures do not necessarily relate to the costs incurred in the months in question.

£

	September 2010		*October 2010*	
Minister	*Travel and subsistence*	*Hospitality*	*Travel and subsistence*	*Hospitality*
Secretary of State for Health	232.31	419.76	[1]21,960.50	39.08
Minister of State for Health (Mr Simon Burns)	169.68	0	134.60	4.62
Minister of State for Care Services (Paul Burstow)	986.07	135.75	960.61	4.85
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Public Health (Anne Milton)	6,230.13	0	4,242.33	0
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Quality (Earl Howe)	4,506.21	223.7	5.15	0

[1] Of this total, £10,633.15 represents the one-off "early surrender charge" made by the Government Car Service to the Department in response to the current Secretary of State's decision to give up his allocated Government car, and a further £7,027.38 represents the July monthly charge incurred during the notice period. In line with the new Ministerial Code, Ministers at the Department have given up their allocated cars and drivers and the existing contracts, which were subject to a 90-day contract termination period, ended on the 19 August 2010. However, due to retrospective billing invoices are still being received for this period as is also reflected in the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Anne Milton) and the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State's (Earl Howe) travel and subsistence costs shown above.

Direct Payments

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of adult social care users in receipt of direct payments in *(a)* each region, *(b)* each local authority area and *(c)* total in each of the last three years. [23943]

Paul Burstow: Data on the number of adult social care users and carers in receipt of direct payments are collected and published by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

The following table shows the number of service users and carers receiving direct payments at a council, regional and England level for the last three years. The 2009-10 data are provisional with final data expected to be published in early 2011.

Information on carers receiving direct payments was not collected for the period 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008.

Table 1: Estimated number of service users and carers receiving direct payments during the period April to March

		2007-08[1]	*2008-09*		*2009-10*[2]	
		Service users	*Service users*	*Carers*	*Service users*	*Carers*
	Councils with social services responsibilities	*Clients aged 18 and over receiving direct payments*	*Clients aged 18 and over receiving direct payments*	*All carers caring for a person aged 18 and over receiving direct payments*	*Clients aged 18 and over receiving direct payments*	*All carers caring for a person aged 18 and over receiving direct payments*
	North East	3,985	5,280	345	6,390	1,045
117	Darlington	115	155	10	290	20
116	Durham	555	700	85	1,050	125
106	Gateshead	205	275	15	265	20
111	Hartlepool	375	475	25	450	45
112	Middlesbrough	330	460	10	555	20
107	Newcastle upon Tyne	350	465	70	765	275
108	North Tyneside	265	295	20	290	10
104	Northumberland	385	675	15	615	10
113	Redcar and Cleveland	330	395	55	505	95
109	South Tyneside	170	340	10	410	380
114	Stockton-on-Tees	305	375	[3]—	415	[3]—
110	Sunderland	590	670	25	775	40
	North West	8,415	10,490	4,280	15,490	[5]—
324	Blackburn with Darwen	135	150	0	240	0
325	Blackpool	205	240	10	365	35
304	Bolton	345	505	220	685	300
305	Bury	175	195	160	215	[5]—
320	Cheshire	995	1,420	155	[4]—	[4]—
326	Cheshire East	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	1,085	80
327	Cheshire West and Chester	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	1,600	45
102	Cumbria	705	965	0	830	0
321	Halton	220	220	575	300	650
315	Knowsley	325	400	45	435	60
323	Lancashire	1,080	1,340	660	1,815	405
316	Liverpool	540	630	245	1,125	580
306	Manchester	590	750	960	860	2,275
307	Oldham	125	120	0	815	320
308	Rochdale	180	270	45	340	70
309	Salford	395	480	0	560	40
317	Sefton	315	400	110	540	125
318	St. Helens	285	475	10	400	185
310	Stockport	275	310	90	490	135
311	Tameside	180	215	35	395	40
312	Trafford	310	385	445	470	755
322	Warrington	205	215	10	945	10
313	Wigan	375	475	445	635	50
319	Wirral	460	330	55	335	165

Table 1: Estimated number of service users and carers receiving direct payments during the period April to March

		2007-08[1]	2008-09		2009-10[2]	
		Service users	Service users	Carers	Service users	Carers
	Councils with social services responsibilities	*Clients aged 18 and over receiving direct payments*	*Clients aged 18 and over receiving direct payments*	*All carers caring for a person aged 18 and over receiving direct payments*	*Clients aged 18 and over receiving direct payments*	*All carers caring for a person aged 18 and over receiving direct payments*
	Yorkshire and the Humber	7,770	10,475	1,865	11,885	[5]—
204	Barnsley	360	405	0	465	140
209	Bradford	395	485	5	610	455
210	Calderdale	195	280	[3]—	665	[3]—
205	Doncaster	245	320	0	295	90
214	East Riding of Yorkshire	265	295	390	435	1,105
215	Kingston upon Hull	220	260	70	370	[5]—
211	Kirklees	285	410	545	1,175	1,120
212	Leeds	615	940	10	1,340	375
216	North East Lincolnshire	200	260	185	300	330
217	North Lincolnshire	130	195	25	380	30
218	North Yorkshire	3,040	4,430	0	3,105	1,340
206	Rotherham	360	460	265	625	30
207	Sheffield	880	1,055	55	1,260	80
213	Wakefield	365	515	10	540	15
219	York	210	165	315	320	575
	East Midlands	4,975	7,560	1,590	8,620	3,270
507	Derby	375	370	20	390	95
506	Derbyshire	705	995	[3]—	1,360	60
509	Leicester	280	425	370	545	445
508	Leicestershire	800	1,250	40	1,420	275
503	Lincolnshire	635	1,625	925	1,140	2,010
504	Northamptonshire	770	1,035	65	1,465	155
512	Nottingham	250	375	10	490	5
511	Nottinghamshire	1,135	1,435	130	1,700	175
510	Rutland	25	60	25	110	40
	West Midlands	7,785	8,755	8,550	11,495	9,175
406	Birmingham	920	1,250	2,525	1,360	3,045
407	Coventry	580	505	135	565	75
408	Dudley	395	750	355	875	435
415	Herefordshire	155	175	10	310	20
409	Sandwell	385	425	505	435	755
417	Shropshire	340	385	175	1,270	650
410	Solihull	195	285	260	375	415
413	Staffordshire	1,305	2,040	2,060	2,660	815
414	Stoke-on-Trent	290	455	310	475	510
418	Telford and the Wrekin	195	230	0	245	0
411	Walsall	240	315	170	565	225
404	Warwickshire	1,055	870	570	1,070	605
412	Wolverhampton	260	370	355	500	450
416	Worcestershire	1,465	695	1,125	790	1,180
	South West	6,450	8,695	2,110	9,415	3,500
908	Bath and North East Somerset	185	200	[3]—	255	60
810	Bournemouth	160	210	135	255	150
909	Bristol	355	475	35	580	70
902	Cornwall	1,280	1,385	[5]—	355	815
912	Devon	1,195	1,280	0	1,380	0
809	Dorset	410	850	10	1,030	10
904	Gloucestershire	455	780	55	1,220	355

Table 1: Estimated number of service users and carers receiving direct payments during the period April to March

		2007-08[1]	2008-09		2009-10[2]	
		Service users	Service users	Carers	Service users	Carers
	Councils with social services responsibilities	Clients aged 18 and over receiving direct payments	Clients aged 18 and over receiving direct payments	All carers caring for a person aged 18 and over receiving direct payments	Clients aged 18 and over receiving direct payments	All carers caring for a person aged 18 and over receiving direct payments
906	Isles of Scilly	[3]—	[3]—	10	[3]—	[3]—
910	North Somerset	255	295	20	300	120
913	Plymouth	230	535	385	745	740
811	Poole	190	280	10	380	20
905	Somerset	720	860	[3]—	1,075	5
911	South Gloucestershire	280	440	125	550	145
819	Swindon	155	200	35	230	115
914	Torbay	295	440	85	415	235
817	Wiltshire	290	460	400	640	665
	Eastern	7,380	8,750	3,550	[5]—	[5]—
610	Bedfordshire	460	745	360	[4]—	[4]—
625	Bedford	[4]	[4]—	[4]—	375	350
626	Central Bedfordshire	[4]	[4]	[4]—	555	310
623	Cambridgeshire	935	645	1,185	1,110	2,170
620	Essex	2,530	2,635	680	2,710	630
606	Hertfordshire	835	1,355	830	1,825	830
611	Luton	185	235	5	[5]—	[5]—
607	Norfolk	1,395	1,705	360	2,230	395
624	Peterborough	170	270	20	325	50
621	Southend-on-Sea	155	295	60	400	160
609	Suffolk	640	760	20	930	40
622	Thurrock	75	105	20	155	95
	London	9,110	12,350	3,620	[5]—	[5]—
716	Barking and Dagenham	285	395	40	575	90
717	Barnet	535	635	260	710	210
718	Bexley	250	400	[5]—	360	0
719	Brent	235	515	5	960	100
720	Bromley	305	390	[3]—	380	55
702	Camden	295	320	100	405	160
714	City of London	35	25	[3]—	65	50
721	Croydon	310	390	20	415	15
722	Ealing	360	460	125	775	160
723	Enfield	335	435	15	515	20
703	Greenwich	270	335	80	395	170
704	Hackney	285	270	35	400	215
705	Hammersmith and Fulham	235	255	125	310	275
724	Haringey	260	300	715	400	1,270
725	Harrow	245	620	305	690	530
726	Havering	260	350	0	425	0
727	Hillingdon	310	360	10	380	20
728	Hounslow	335	375	85	440	105
706	Islington	210	255	90	330	120
707	Kensington and Chelsea	325	360	5	1,245	0
729	Kingston upon Thames	205	265	130	305	170
708	Lambeth	285	325	5	355	110
709	Lewisham	180	455	20	485	220
730	Merton	180	245	20	340	45
731	Newham	370	470	5	[5]—	[5]—

Table 1: Estimated number of service users and carers receiving direct payments during the period April to March

		2007-08[1]	*2008-09*		*2009-10*[2]	
		Service users	*Service users*	*Carers*	*Service users*	*Carers*
	Councils with social services responsibilities	*Clients aged 18 and over receiving direct payments*	*Clients aged 18 and over receiving direct payments*	*All carers caring for a person aged 18 and over receiving direct payments*	*Clients aged 18 and over receiving direct payments*	*All carers caring for a person aged 18 and over receiving direct payments*
732	Redbridge	280	350	55	580	40
733	Richmond upon Thames	430	425	215	495	210
710	Southwark	200	220	0	250	[3]
734	Sutton	215	425	230	465	370
711	Tower Hamlets	235	260	185	340	380
735	Waltham Forest	215	335	95	570	185
712	Wandsworth	225	625	310	365	335
713	Westminster	405	510	210	595	155
	South East	10,930	13,765	4,495	16,115	[5]—
614	Bracknell Forest	205	330	0	325	195
816	Brighton and Hove	220	320	140	400	175
612	Buckinghamshire	700	710	[5]—	675	710
815	East Sussex	725	1,040	1,710	1,225	1,715
812	Hampshire	1,205	1,775	40	1,530	965
803	Isle of Wight	255	260	35	325	55
820	Kent	1,680	2,340	0	2,935	0
821	Medway Towns	245	335	25	495	35
613	Milton Keynes	360	430	55	1,200	[5]—
608	Oxfordshire	855	925	350	880	755
813	Portsmouth	170	195	35	235	40
616	Reading	135	275	115	275	360
617	Slough	200	220	140	280	260
814	Southampton	335	425	0	575	0
805	Surrey	[5]—	1,525	965	1,865	1,295
615	West Berkshire	225	265	100	235	155
807	West Sussex	800	945	165	1,260	370
618	Windsor and Maidenhead	1,515	1,200	15	1,115	20
619	Wokingham	230	255	20	280	20
	England	66,790	86,110	30,425	[5]	[5]—

[1] Information on carers receiving direct payments was not collected for the period 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008.

[2] Data for 2009-10 are provisional. No estimates have been made for councils who failed to provide data so some regional totals and the national total are not provided. These will be available when final data are published for 2009-10.

[3] Data less than or equal to five.

[4] Data not available.

[5] Data not provided.

Source:

RAP P2f, SD1, SD3 and PSSEX

Eating Disorders: Males

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has made recommendations to mental health trusts about access to eating disorder services for male patients following the introduction of single sex accommodation; and if he will make a statement. [24071]

Paul Burstow: While this disorder predominantly affects females, approximately 10% of new cases currently being seen are young males. When male patients are admitted to eating disorders units, the facilities provided are compliant with the Department's guidance on single sex accommodation.

General Practitioners

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has plans to permit GP consortia to contract out any services relating to their commissioning functions to private companies. [24289]

Mr Simon Burns: It is intended that general practitioner (GP) consortia will be statutory bodies with powers and responsibilities set out through primary and secondary legislation.

Within commissioning budgets, it is envisaged that GP consortia will receive a maximum management allowance to reflect the management costs associated with commissioning. Consortia will be free to decide how to use this management allowance to carry out commissioning activities.

Consortia are likely to carry out a number of commissioning activities themselves. In other cases, consortia may choose to act collectively, with a lead commissioner negotiating and monitoring contacts with large hospital trusts or with urgent care providers. They may also choose to buy in support from external organisations, including local authorities and private and voluntary sector bodies, which might include analytical activity to profile and stratify healthcare needs, support for procurement of services, and contract monitoring.

We will be working with GPs and other healthcare professionals to look at how GP consortia will ensure any company brought in to support commissioning is both competent and suitable.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the likely effects of EU legislation on the implementation of his proposals for GP commissioning. [24291]

Anne Milton: The coalition Government will ensure that the reform proposals set out in the White Paper comply with European Union law, particularly in relation to competition and state aid.

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what processes he plans to put in place to enable patients to raise concerns regarding serious misconduct on the part of their GP following the abolition of primary care trusts; what the process will be for suspending GPs when such concerns are found to be of sufficient *(a)* merit and *(b)* importance to warrant suspension; and what arrangements will be put in place to provide care for the patient while investigations are completed. [24293]

Mr Simon Burns: Currently a NHS complaint may be made to either the local practice or the commissioning body. The reformed NHS complaints arrangements were put in place in 2009, following a widespread public consultation, and it is envisaged that the underlying principles will remain as responsibility for commissioning services shifts to commissioning consortiums and the NHS Commissioning Board.

The National Health Service (Performers Lists) Regulations 2004 provide for primary care trusts (PCTs) to manage suspension of general practitioners. Following the abolition of PCTs, it will be the responsibility of the NHS Commissioning Board to ensure that patients continue to have access to primary medical services. The detailed arrangements for the management of performers lists are currently being considered by Ministers and departmental officials.

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what processes his Department will ensure *(a)* probity, *(b)* quality of service and *(c)* cost effectiveness when GPs are commissioning services which they also provide; which body will monitor such contracts; and how his Department plans to report to the House on the probity and value for money of such arrangements. [24294]

Paul Burstow: The NHS Commissioning Board will have the statutory responsibility for commissioning of general practitioner (GP) services.

Where GP consortiums commission services, the NHS Commissioning Board will hold them to account for delivering outcomes and financial performance. In addition, as outlined in the consultation document 'Regulating Healthcare Providers', the Government will set out in legislation the duties of the NHS Board and Commissioners to act transparently and non-discriminatorily in all commissioning activities. This will be particularly important where GP consortiums are commissioning services that could potentially be provided by GP practices.

Monitor will have powers to investigate and remedy complaints regarding commissioners' procurement decisions, or other anticompetitive conduct, acting as arbiter. The NHS Commissioning Board and Monitor will be required to report annually on the effectiveness of commissioning and economic regulation in the national health service respectively. These reports will also be laid before Parliament.

Health Education: Teenage Pregnancy

Amber Rudd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to educate young people about the health problems associated with teenage pregnancy. [19000]

Sarah Teather: I have been asked to reply.

Evidence shows that children born to teenage mothers have a 60% higher risk of infant mortality; and 25% higher risk of low birth weight—which is a predictor for poorer health outcomes in later life. The key factors that contribute to these poor outcomes are:

later engagement with antenatal services, including lower rates of attendance at antenatal education;

poorer diet during pregnancy;

higher rates of smoking during pregnancy; and

lower rates of breastfeeding.

Teenage mothers also experience poorer emotional health and well-being, with rates of post-natal depression three times higher than those for older mothers.

All secondary schools are required to provide sex education. This provides the opportunity to raise awareness of these issues among all young people. But the extent to which schools cover the specific health risks associated with teenage pregnancy will vary, depending on teachers' assessment of their students' needs. SRE is a broad topic and curriculum time is limited. The fact that less than 1% of under-16s conceive each year means that schools may not see this issue as a priority for their students.

Once a young woman has become pregnant and decides to have the baby, we would expect them to receive high quality antenatal care, which highlights the importance of a healthy lifestyle during pregnancy and the risk of poor outcomes if, for example, mothers continue to smoke during their pregnancy. In some areas, specially tailored antenatal services are available for young parents, in recognition that they have particular needs that may not be met through all-age services.

After the birth, we would expect vulnerable young mothers to receive support through children's centres which will be focusing on the most disadvantaged families and through the Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) programme in the 56 local areas where it operates. FNP recognises that first-time young mothers are more likely to need additional practical and emotional support to deal with the challenges of parenthood.

Health Services: Terrorism

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 8 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 148W, on hospitals: infectious diseases, what estimate he has made of the minimum number of isolation beds required for the UK to respond to a potential biological attack utilising one or more highly infectious diseases. [23868]

Anne Milton: The minimum number of isolation beds required for the UK to respond to a potential biological attack, involving one or more highly infectious diseases, is based in part on the threat outlined in the National Risk Assessment (NRA). The NRA is a classified annual assessment of the risks (accidents, natural events and malicious attacks) facing the United Kingdom over a five-year period. As such, it is not appropriate to publish the details of estimates and available capacity for any given risk.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were on NHS waiting lists in each of the last nine months; and what estimate he has made of the change in the number of patients on waiting lists over the next five years. [24227]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department collects and publishes monthly national statistics data on national health service referral to start of treatment waiting times and the number of patients still waiting to start treatment.

The number of patients who had not yet started their treatment at the end of each of the last nine months is shown in the following table:

Referral to treatment (RTT): Incomplete pathways

	Number
2009	
December	2,365,316
2010	
January	2,315,060
February	2,337,098
March	2,420,535
April	2,513,586
May	2,573,895
June	2,569,098
July	2,656,614
August	2,654,816

What matters to patients is how long they wait before starting treatment. Latest RTT data for August 2010 show that the median referral to start of treatment waiting times were 8.3 weeks for patients admitted to hospital for treatment and 4.4 weeks for non-admitted patients (patients whose treatment did not involve an admission to hospital).

Clinical priority is—and remains—the main determinant of when patients should be treated. Patients should not experience undue delay at any stage of their treatment and would not expect a return to long waiting times for operations.

Locums: Expenditure

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what his estimate is of NHS spending on hospital locum doctors in each primary care trust area in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2009-10; [24546]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the effect of the EU Working Time Directive on levels of expenditure on hospital locum doctors; and if he will make a statement. [24584]

Anne Milton: This information is not collected centrally. Costs of employing locums can be incurred for a variety of reasons e.g. maternity cover and to cover illness or holiday breaks and it is impossible to identify the reason locum cover is provided.

NHS: Finance

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to ensure that hospital trusts bill commissioners appropriately for the health care services they provide in order to reduce differential pricing between age groups for the same consultations and procedures. [24110]

Mr Simon Burns: Under Payment by Results, acute hospital trusts invoice commissioners a national tariff, which is a list of fixed prices. For the average acute hospital trust, tariff income represents around 50% of total income. The currency, or unit of payment, for the admitted patient care tariff is the healthcare resource group (HRG). HRGs are standard groupings of clinically similar treatments which use similar levels of health care resource, and where appropriate there are different prices for different age groups. The tariff is explained in 'A simple guide to Payment by Results', which has been placed in the Library and is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_119985

NHS: ICT

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to *(a)* his Department, *(b)* NHS Connecting for Health and *(c)* the National Programme for IT was of employing a team of information security architects in each year since the national programme for IT began. [24574]

Paul Burstow: Since it came into being in April 2005, NHS Connecting for Health has been responsible, within the Department, both for central expenditure necessary for ensuring delivery of systems and services under the national programme for information technology (NPfIT), and for maintaining the critical business systems previously provided to the national health service by the former NHS Information Authority.

Relevant expenditure in the years for which information is readily available is shown in the following table.

				£000
	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
NPfIT	1,973	3,040	2,103	857
Other NHS Connecting for Health	323	650	644	517

				£000
	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Total	2,296	3,690	2,747	1,374

Notes
1. No dedicated team of information security architects has been employed. Figures relate to staff working in the role of information security architect in the period.
2. Figures include national insurance and pension contributions for permanent staff, and VAT, where applicable, for expenditure on contractor staff.
3. Figures exclude office and other employment costs, and expenses (e.g. travel and subsistence) payments.
4. Information prior to 2006-07 for NPfIT was held by the NHS Information Authority, which was abolished in March 2005.

NHS: Manpower

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the likely effect of the outcomes of the comprehensive spending review on the number of NHS *(a)* managers, *(b)* front-line staff, *(c)* junior doctors and *(d)* nurses. [24091]

Mr Simon Burns: The precise number of national health service managers, front-line staff, junior doctors and nurses required over the next five years will not be known until the new organisations that will underpin the new system have been designed in more detail.

The Department has consulted on how the new organisations should be designed and is analysing responses. Information on how the new organisations should be designed will be announced in due course.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists he expects to be working in the NHS in each of the next five years. [24216]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department is currently undertaking a dental work-force review, which will include a sample survey of dentists' working patterns and career plans. Initial results should be available next spring.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many midwives he expects to be employed in the NHS in each of the next five years. [24218]

Anne Milton: It is the responsibility of strategic health authorities (SHAs) to commission their work force. SHAs base their decisions for work force planning on assessment of their local national health service organisations. The local NHS organisations are best placed to determine work force needs.

The coalition Government value the contribution by the maternity work force and SHAs are considering the number of maternity staff needed to deliver safe maternity services which extend maternity choice.

A national assessment will be made as part of the operating framework assurance process.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many general practitioners he expects to be employed in the NHS in each of the next five years. [24219]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper makes it clear that accountability for decisions affecting work force supply and demand needs to sit in the right place, with employers having greater autonomy for planning and developing the work force alongside greater professional ownership of the quality of education and training.

The number of general practitioners employed by the national health service in each of the next five years will depend on local plans.

NHS: Social Enterprises

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health under what conditions applications under the right to request scheme for NHS organisations are granted. [24290]

Paul Burstow: Applications under the right to request scheme are assessed by primary care trusts, and assured by strategic health authorities, against a national assurance framework. The assurance framework includes assessment of service development plans, financial planning and viability, and staff engagement.

Paediatrics

Ben Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to support the development of patient education for children in paediatric wards. [24509]

Anne Milton: Patient education programmes are essential to securing optimal management of illnesses in children, particularly where a clear understanding of ongoing treatment is necessary for the prevention and mitigation of morbidity associated with the illness. The Department is currently supporting production of dedicated patient information leaflets as a key practical guide for parents and young people. The leaflets will be accessible through NHS Choices, and can be an option for downloading in paediatric wards as a part of the discharge procedure.

Palliative Care

Mr Robin Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanism he plans to put in place for *(a)* commissioning, *(b)* monitoring and *(c)* auditing procedures to ensure GP consortia provide high-quality care and support for terminally ill patients. [24174]

Paul Burstow: The Government's reform proposals are about placing the power and responsibility to commission health services in the hands of national health service professionals who see and talk to patients every day, and know the most about their needs. As such, consortia will be better placed to efficiently commission high-quality services for all, including terminally ill patients.

An independent NHS Commissioning Board will support consortia, helping them commission for continuous improvements in the quality of all NHS funded services, including those for the terminally ill. The Board will do this by, for example, producing Commissioning Guidance to which consortia should have regard. The Board will also promote choice and patient engagement, help to reduce health inequalities, hold general practitioner consortia to account, directly commission certain services including primary medical care, and allocate and account for NHS resources.

Liberating the NHS was the start of an extensive consultation on how best to implement these changes. A number of supporting documents were published and in particular, "Liberating the NHS: Commissioning for Patients" invited views on a number of areas of the commissioning agenda. The consultation closed on 11 October, and further details are being worked up as a result of this exercise.

Mr Robin Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what changes in NHS end of life services he envisages as a result of his Department's commitment to 24/7 community nursing to support terminally-ill patients at home; [24175]

(2) whether the palliative care funding review will publish an interim report. [24237]

Paul Burstow: The Government have confirmed their commitment to improving quality and choice in palliative and end of life care in 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS'. This includes the commitment to move towards a national choice offer to support people's preferences about care at the end of their life.

The Department's end of life care strategy provides our blueprint for improving end of life care for adults. The strategy encourages the development of services such as improved community services, rapid response services, access to services in the community 24 hours a day, seven days a week and specialist palliative care outreach services, which will allow more people to choose where they are cared for and die. How these services are provided and resourced is for local determination.

The independent palliative care funding review will make recommendations for a funding system that will cover care provided by the national health service, a hospice or any appropriate provider, and which encourages more community-based care, so people can remain in their own homes, or in a care home.

The review is to make its interim report to Ministers this autumn. Whether the report is published is a matter for the review team to determine.

Vaccination: Travel

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his estimate is of NHS spending on *(a)* travel vaccinations and *(b)* travel vaccination clinics in each year since 2005. [24547]

Anne Milton: This information is not held centrally.

Certain vaccinations are provided free of charge for travel in accordance with the National Health Service (General Medical Services Contracts) Regulations 2004. General practitioners receive remuneration for providing these services within the 'global sum' of the General Medical Services Contract. Some vaccines provided free of charge for travel are also used for occupational health purposes. Financial records held centrally do not separately identify NHS expenditure on travel vaccinations.

Financial records held centrally do not separately identify NHS expenditure on travel vaccination clinics.

Incinerators: Health Hazards

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 30 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 539W, on incinerators: health hazards, for what reasons it was decided that the Environment Agency should undertake a review of the health effects of combustion processes, including incineration, in view of the Health Protection Agency advice that studies of public health around modern, well-managed municipal waste incinerators are not recommended. [23872]

Richard Benyon: I have been asked to reply.

The Environment Agency regulates incinerators and other large combustion processes. The review referred to will provide additional evidence to underpin the agency's role in regulating industrial emissions. It will consider all large combustion processes and any potential effects on health. Emissions from waste incineration are included in the review, although they make up only a small proportion of the total emissions from combustion processes. By contrast, the Health Protection Agency 2009 report addresses emissions from incineration only.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Crown Currency Exchange

Jake Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will commission an investigation into the solvency of Crown Currency Exchange while it was trading; and if he will make a statement. [23953]

Mr Davey: Following the administration of Currency Crown Exchange Ltd on 4 October, officials have been in contact with the administrators, and the failure of this company is under active consideration.

Higher Education Innovation Fund

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of funding allocations to be made by the higher education innovation fund in *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12, *(c)* 2012-13, *(d)* 2013-14 and *(e)* 2014-15. [23612]

Mr Hayes: The Department is currently forecasting to spend £144.3 million on the higher education innovation fund in financial year 2010-11 (which is £150 million in academic year 2010-11). This grant scheme is administered by the Higher Education Funding Council for England on behalf of BIS.

Future allocations for science and research between the years 2011-12 and 2014-15 will be covered by the spending review 2010 which has recently been announced at a departmental level. Decisions on the detailed allocations have not yet been taken.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if his Department will publish the criteria for the access agreements each university will be expected to sign with the Office for Fair Access. [23671]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 12 November 2010]*: The Director of Fair Access is responsible for approving universities' and colleges' access agreements to safeguard access to higher education. All guidance for producing access agreements and their monitoring is published by the Office for Fair Access (OFFA) and this will continue to be the case. OFFA also publishes all approved access agreements as well as an annual monitoring report. In setting guidance, the Director of Fair Access must have regard to any guidance given to him by the Secretary of State and this is also published.

Higher Education: Females

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of first-year undergraduates were female in each of the last five academic years. [24123]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 15 November 2010]*: The numbers and proportions of first-year undergraduate students who were female are shown in the following table for the academic years 2004/05 to 2008/09. Figures for the 2009/10 academic year will become available from the Higher Education Statistics Agency in January 2011.

UK higher education institutions including the Open University academic years 2004/05 to 2008/09 female first year undergraduates[1]

Academic year	*Number who were female*	*Proportion who were female (percentage)*
2004/05	447,160	59.6
2005/06	469,050	59.6
2006/07	463,135	59.5
2007/08	467,565	59.1
2008/09	492,640	58.8

[1] Covers full-time and part-time undergraduates of all domiciles.

Notes:

1. Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and are rounded to the nearest five.
2. Percentages are given to one decimal place and are based on unrounded figures.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record

Higher Education: Finance

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the level of funding likely to be allocated by the Higher Education Funding Council for England for widening participation in *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12, *(c)* 2012-13, *(d)* 2013-14 and *(e)* 2014-15. [23675]

Mr Hayes: The funding council's allocation for widening participation in the academic year 2010/11 is £143.4 million. Allocations for future years will be determined by the council in response to the funding and priorities set by the Department, which will be announced for each year in due course.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to publish the grant letter to the Higher Education Funding Council for England for 2011-12. [24657]

Mr Hayes: We intend to publish the grant letter for 2011-12 by Christmas this year.

Public Expenditure

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much and what proportion of his Department's capital expenditure was allocated to *(a)* London and *(b)* the North West in each of the last five financial years. [21464]

Mr Davey: The data requested are shown in the following tables, based on the HM Treasury Country and Regional Analysis used for the Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses Command Paper (PESA 2010, CM 7890).

Percentage

	Regional allocation:	
	London	*North West*
2005-06	25	-1
2006-07	21	9
2007-08	21	9
2008-09	20	9
2009-10	21	11

£ million

	Actual outturn	
	London	*North West*
2005-06	425.3	-8.8
2006-07	373.9	170.4
2007-08	412.8	172.9
2008-09	458.2	214.1
2009-10	612.7	314.2

SG First Minister

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he last met the First Minister of Scotland; and what matters were discussed at that meeting. [24781]

Mr Davey: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills last met with the First Minister of Scotland on 1 June. They discussed various energy related issues and banking reform.

Students: Fees and Charges

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the likely effects on mature students of the implementation of his proposals for the level of tuition fees. [23672]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 12 November 2010]*: The Government are committed to delivering a high-quality university sector that is more responsive to the needs of students and which is based on a progressive graduate contribution system. No one should be put off from raising their skills because of a lack of access to finance. In 2008/09, 92% (91.6%) 297,080 of UK-domiciled undergraduate entrants to part-time courses at UK higher education institutions, including the Open University, were mature (21+). Under our proposals for higher education funding, for the first time, eligible part-time students studying at at least one-third the intensity of a full-time course, will be entitled to a full loan for tuition, on the same basis as full-timers.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 18 November 2010

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Copyright

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will assess the merits of extending to 75 years the copyright protection period for recorded works which currently receive copyright protection for 50 years. [24669]

Mr Davey: I have been asked to reply.

Copyright terms are harmonised within the EU. The Government are not aware of current plans to extend the term for recorded works to 75 years and have made no such evaluation of the type suggested by my hon. Friend. The previous Government published an impact assessment on the proposal to extend performers' rights in sound recordings to a term of initially 95, but later to 70 years. This proposal is still on the table in Brussels.

Departmental Grants

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what grants have been awarded by his Department in 2010-11 to date; what grants he plans to award in each of the next two years; what the monetary value is of each such grant; and to which organisations such grants are made. [25040]

John Penrose: The first table shows grants (both capital and resource) that have been awarded by the Department in 2010-11, and those announced for 2011-12 and 2012-13. The second table includes those organisations where an allocation has been confirmed for 2010-11 but where further announcements have yet to be made.

£000

Grant	*Organisation*	*2010-11*[1]	*2011-12*	*2012-13*
National Coal Mining Museum of England	National Coal Mining Museum of England	2,794	2,707	2,657
Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums	Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums	2,847	1,918	1,893
Design Museum	Design Museum	424	328	257
National Football Museum	National Football Museum	105	0	0
People's History Museum	People's History Museum	173	168	164
Former Royal Naval College Greenwich	Greenwich Foundation for the Old Royal Naval College	1,455	1,388	1,342
Chatham Historic Dockyard	The Historic Dockyard, Chatham	291	278	268
Restoration of the Cutty Sark	Cutty Sark Trust	0	3,000	0
Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme	Groups occupying eligible Places of Worship	14,469	[2]12,100	[2]12,300
National Film and Television School	National Film and Television School	3,038	2,904	2,857
Strategic Commissioning Grants for Museum Education[3]	National Museums, Galleries and the British Library	1,885	0	0
British Chess Federation	British Chess Federation	45	0	0
Free Swimming—Grants for Under 16s and over 60s	Local Authorities in England	11,318	0	0
Free Swimming—regional co-ordinators and swimming lessons[3]	Amateur Swimming Association	2,684	0	0

Grant	*Organisation*	*2010-11*[1] *(£000)*
DCMS/Wolfson Museum and Galleries Improvement Fund[3]	Museums and Galleries with eligible collections	5,682
Connections through Culture	British Council—China	100
Memorials Grant Scheme	Registered Charities and Faith Groups	500
Own Art—running costs of the art purchase scheme[3]	Art Co (trading arm of Arts Council England)	375
Take it Away—running costs of musical instrument purchase scheme[3]	Art Co (trading arm of Arts Council England)	625
Youth Mentoring—Music	Youth Music	322
Poetry Archive	Poetry Archive Ltd	120
Poetry Society	Poetry Society	11
Change4life[3]	Youth Sport Trust	750
Dancelinks	Arts Council England	50
UK School Games	Legacy Trust UK	725
Tourism for All	Tourism for All	15
International Inspirations[3]	II Foundation	1,600
Youth mentoring—Media	Media Trust	323

Grant	*Organisation*	*2010-11[1] (£000)*
Tsunami Memorial	Tsunami Support UK (TSUK)	400

[1] Total value of the grants in 2010-11, planned or forecast.
[2] This sum is gross of administration costs for the scheme.
[3] These grants are fully or part funded by other organisations or Government Departments.

Digital Broadcasting: Television

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to ensure that all areas of the country have television reception of an adequate strength to participate in digital switchover. [25103]

Mr Vaizey: Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) coverage is planned to reach 98.5% of households—the same as pre-switchover analogue terrestrial coverage reception. The power of the digital transmitter network has to be restricted to low levels until switchover takes place, in order to avoid interfering with the analogue network. At switchover in a region, coverage and reception reliability will increase significantly when the power level is increased.

SCOTLAND

Research Councils UK

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he last met representatives from Research Councils UK; and what topics were discussed at that meeting. [24823]

Michael Moore: I have not yet had an opportunity to meet with Research Councils UK but have discussed research funding with Universities Scotland.

WALES

Broadband

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions Ministers and officials in her Department have had with Members of the National Assembly for Wales other than Ministers in the Welsh Assembly Government on a proposed pilot in Wales for high speed broadband services. [24845]

Mr David Jones: The Secretary of State and I have had regular discussions with Ministerial colleagues, Welsh Assembly Government Ministers and with Members of the National Assembly for Wales on a range of issues affecting Wales including broadband.

My officials will continue to work with colleagues in the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills and the Welsh Assembly Government on ways in which we can together help deliver 21st century broadband infrastructure for Wales.

EDUCATION

Education: Children

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the uptake was of early education places for three and four-year-olds in each local authority by children of households in each *(a)* family income and *(b)* employment category in the latest period for which figures are available. [21426]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 4 November 2010]:* Data on the take up of early education by three and four years by local authority area and by family income and employment category are not available.

The Childcare and Early Years Survey of Parents collects information on the take-up of the entitlement to free early years provision by three and four years by family income and by family type and work status and allows for national level estimates to be made.

Table 1 shows the percentage of three and four-year-olds receiving the entitlement to free early years provision by family income in England in 2009.

Table 1: Receipt of the entitlement to free early years provision, by family income—Base: All eligible three and four-year-olds

	Percentage
Family annual income (£)	*Received free hours (or attended school)*
Under 10,000	79
10,000-19,999	80
20,000-29,999	87
30,000-44,999	91
45,000+	95
Total	87

Table 2 shows the percentage of three and four-year-olds receiving the entitlement to free early years provision by family type and work status in England in 2009.

Table 2: Receipt of the entitlement to free early years provision, by family type and work status—Base: All eligible three and four-year-olds

	Percentage
Family type and work status	*Received free hours (or attended school)*
Couple families	
Both working	91
One working	89
Neither working	76
Lone parents	
Working	87
Not working	78
Total	87

Data on the take-up of free early education places by three and four-year-olds by local authority area are available in Table 5 of the Statistical First Release 'Provision for Children Under Five Years of Age in England—January 2010' at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000935/index.shtml

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department takes to ensure that the provisions of article 12 of the UN convention on the rights of the child are applied to all policies which affect young people. [13444]

Sarah Teather: The Government believe that involving children and young people in discussion about services that affect their lives is likely to improve services and help in developing confident and responsible citizens.

The Department has engaged with children and young people through a range of channels including its Children and Youth Board; the Office of the Children's Commissioner; and key stakeholders from the children's sector.

TREASURY

Aggregates Levy: Northern Ireland

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he plans to have with the European Commission on the reintroduction of the Northern Ireland aggregates levy credit scheme; and if he will make a statement. [23129]

Justine Greening *[holding answer 10 November 2010]:* State aid approval for the aggregates levy credit scheme was due to expire in April 2011 and discussions had begun to continue the scheme until at least 2021.

However, as a result of the European General Court ruling of 9 September, that approval was annulled and continuing the scheme would have constituted illegal state aid. The Government have therefore announced that the scheme will be suspended from 1 December 2010.

The Government support the re-introduction of the scheme at the earliest opportunity. Officials are working closely with the authorities in Northern Ireland and representatives of the quarrying industry to provide the Commission with evidence to enable them to approve the scheme both retrospectively and for the future.

Bank Levy

Mr Umunna: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what representations he has received from *(a)* the British Bankers Association and *(b)* individual banks on the rate at which the proposed bank levy should be charged; [24836]

(2) what representations he has received from the International Monetary Fund on the rate at which the proposed bank levy should be charged; [24837]

(3) what representations he has received from non-governmental organisations on the rate at which the proposed bank levy should be charged. [24839]

Mr Hoban: The Government published 'Bank Levy: A Consultation' on 13 July 2010, and invited the views of business, as well as the views of representative bodies and tax advisers on the design and implementation of the levy. The Government received a total of 48 responses, including from the British Bankers Association and a number of banks, on a wide range of issues. Details of the responses received, and a full list of respondents, were set out in 'Bank Levy: Consultation Response', published on 21 October, available at:

http://hm-treasury.gov.uk/fin_bank_levy.htm

The Government have not received any representations on the bank levy from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The IMF Article IV report on the UK economy published on 9 November 2010 stated that the bank levy "is in line with the design of the financial stability contribution (FSC) set out in the IMF's paper prepared for the G-20—"A Fair and Substantial Contribution by the Financial Sector".

Neither the IMF's Article IV report nor its report to the G20 made any specific recommendations about the appropriate yield from the levy or other taxes.

Bank Services

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department plans to bring forward legislative proposals to separate commercial and investment banking. [25067]

Mr Hoban: The Government believe it is important to debate the issues relating to banking reform in a way that allows everyone to make their case. To this end, the Independent Commission on Banking was established in June 2010 to look at the structure of banking in the UK and consider how to promote financial stability and competition in the industry. This will include examining the complex issue of separating retail and investment banking functions. The commission is due to deliver its report to the Cabinet Committee on Banking Reform by the end of September 2011.

Bank Services: Standards

Jo Swinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidelines his Department requires banks to follow in their treatment of customers who spend significant periods of time, or live, abroad. [24840]

Mr Hoban: Banks and building societies are subject to the Financial Services Authority's (FSA) banking and payments services conduct regime, which provides rules and guidance on firm's conduct of banking business. Banks are not required to follow specific rules for non-resident customers or those spending time abroad.

Banks: Loans

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with the banking sector on personal guarantees for loans; and whether he has made an assessment of trends in the setting of criteria for personal guarantees in the last 10 years. [22960]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers receive representations from a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

Child Benefit

Ian Lavery: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Streatham of 3 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 826W, on child benefit, for what reason estimates of the number of households affected by his proposed changes to child benefit are not available at constituency or local authority level; and if he will make a statement. [24308]

Mr Gauke: The estimates in the answer referred to were produced using the inter-governmental tax and benefit model (IGoTM). This is based on data from the Family Resources Survey (FRS). Figures are not available at constituency or local authority level, because the sample size and survey design of the FRS mean that it is not suitable for producing such estimates.

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households in *(a)* Newcastle Upon Tyne North constituency, *(b)* the north-east and *(c)* England he expects to be affected by the proposed changes to child benefit. [24469]

Mr Gauke: The number of households affected by the withdrawal of child benefit from families with a higher rate taxpayer in 2013:

(a) In the north-east is estimated to be around 50,000.

(b) In England is estimated to be around 1.3 million.

Information on household income for child benefit claimants is not available at parliamentary constituency level.

Child Benefit: Tax

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what legal advice he has sought on the extent to which implementation of the proposal to withdraw child benefit from households where a parent earns over £44,000 per year is compliant with independent tax regulations. [21342]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 2 November 2010]:* It is not the Government's practice to provide details of their legal advice. The withdrawal of child benefit from families containing a higher rate taxpayer will not affect the principle of independent taxation.

Departmental ICT

Mr Wallace: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information technology projects in his Department are *(a)* under way and *(b)* planned to commence in the next three years. [24508]

Justine Greening: The Treasury's IT infrastructure renewal programme is part way through delivery and is expected to be complete in March 2011. The Department is also in the process of replacing its COINS system, which collects and collates departmental spending information.

HMT currently has no other planned IT projects.

Departmental Regulation

Mr Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what regulations sponsored by his Department have been revoked in the last six months. [24373]

Justine Greening: In the last six months my Department has revoked two statutory instruments:

the International Monetary Fund (Limit on Lending) Order 2009 (SI No. 2009/1830); and

the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Contribution to Costs of Special Resolution Regime) Regulations 2009 (SI No. 2009/807).

Mr Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what new regulations sponsored by his Department have been introduced through *(a)* primary legislation and *(b)* statutory instrument in the last six months. [24488]

Justine Greening: In the last six months, my Department has not introduced any regulation through primary legislation. We have made nine statutory instruments.

	Statutory instrument
No. 2010/2479	The Premium Savings Bonds (Amendment etc) Regulations 2010
No. 2010/2480 (c.120)	The Financial Services Act 2010 (Commencement No.1 and Transitional Provision) Order 2010
No. 2010/2220	The Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Contribution to Costs of Special Resolution Regime) Regulations 2010
No. 2010/1880	The International Monetary Fund (Limit on Lending) Order 2010
No. 2010/2628	The Capital Requirements (Amendment) Regulations 2010
No. 2010/2613	The Iran (European Community Financial Sanctions) (Amendment) Regulations 2010
No. 2010/2578 (S.5)	The Bank Administration (Scotland) (Amendment) Rules 2010
No. 2010/2586 (S.7)	The Bank Insolvency (Scotland) (Amendment) Rules 2010
No. 2010/2854(S.6)	The Building Society Insolvency (Scotland) Rules 2010

Economic Governance Task Force

Mr Cash: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has received legal advice on the European Parliament's proposals in respect of new EU taxation. [24821]

Mr Hoban: The Chancellor of the Exchequer receives legal advice on a wide range of EU-related issues on a regular basis.

Equitable Life Assurance Society: Compensation

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the timetable is for Equitable Life compensation payments; and if he will make a statement. [22433]

Mr Hoban *[holding answer 8 November 2010]:* As set out in my statement to the House on 22 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 576-78, it is the Government's ambition to commence payments to policyholders in the middle of 2011.

Food: Prices

Mrs Moon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what recent assessment he has made of the effects on food prices of speculation by banks and hedge funds on those prices; [24154]

(2) if he will assess the merits of placing limits on the speculation by banks and hedge funds on food prices. [24155]

Mr Hoban: A number of organisations have argued that financial market speculation was an important cause of the 2007-08 agricultural price spikes. However, analysis by bodies such as the IMF and the OECD suggests that such speculation was not a significant factor.

Individual Savings Accounts

Mr Nuttall: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals to allow shares listed on the Alternative Investment Market to be included as eligible investments within an individual savings account. [23955]

Mr Hoban: ISAs are the Government's main non-pensions savings incentive, and are held by 20 million adults. The Government believe that ISAs are a trusted brand, and that it is important that this is maintained. The Government also believe that ISAs should be mainstream savings products, and therefore do not intend to allow shares listed on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM)—which can be riskier and less liquid—to be qualifying investments for ISAs. It is already the case that companies listed on AIM may benefit from other incentive schemes, such as investments made through the Enterprise Investment Scheme and Venture Capital Trusts.

National Insurance

Mr Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the annual cost of administering the national insurance system; what estimate he has made of the proportion of national insurance contributions made by *(a)* employees and *(b)* employers in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [24358]

Mr Gauke: The estimate of the annual administration costs of the national insurance system for the 2010-11 tax year is £1.54 billion. The most recent estimates for total national insurance contributions receipts published on the ONS website is £96.9 billion for the 2009-10 tax year, of which 43% relate to employee contributions and 57% employer contributions.

Private Sector: Employment

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many private sector jobs he expects there to be in each region in each of the next five years. [24230]

Danny Alexander: The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) released the official forecast for whole economy employment to 2015-16 on 22 June 2010. The OBR will update its forecast on 29 November 2010.

Further information on the employment forecast, including projections for general government employment, was released on 30 June 2010 in their document "OBR forecast: Employment", which can be found on the following webpage:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/publications.html

As I mentioned recently, taken together, the OBR forecasts for whole economy employment and general government employment imply 1.6 million additional private sector jobs over the next four years.

The OBR has not published forecasts on a sub-national level.

Public Sector: West Lothian

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the likely effects of implementation of the proposals in the comprehensive spending review on the number of public sector jobs in the West Lothian local authority area. [24995]

Danny Alexander: No assessment has been made of the likely effects of implementation of the proposals in the comprehensive spending review on the number of public sector jobs in the West Lothian local authority area. In devolved areas of spending it is for the Scottish Government to make its own decisions on the allocation of its budget, and as such any associated implications for jobs.

Revenue and Customs: Finance

Bob Russell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the outcomes of the comprehensive spending review on HM Revenue and Customs' tax inquiry services for the public. [24521]

Mr Gauke: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Arfon (Hywel Williams), on 16 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 774W.

Taxation: Interest Payments

Mr Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the annual cost to the public purse of making interest on ordinary bank and building society accounts free from taxation; and if he will make a statement. [24361]

Mr Hoban: The annual liabilities generated by the taxation of income from savings, including an estimate for the current year, are published at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_tax/table2-6.pdf

The current estimate for the revenue generated in 2010-11 is £1.85 billion. The cost of abolishing the taxation of savings income is dependent on market interest rates.

Economic Policy: EU Action

Mr Carswell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the legal basis under which the UK would be exempt from those EU legislative initiatives in the field of national budgets and macro-economic surveillance proposed in the Task Force report to the European Council of 21 October 2010. [23089]

Justine Greening: The UK's Protocol to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union contains certain provisions that preclude the application to the UK of sanctions under Article 126(11) of the Treaty. This exemption from sanctions is explicitly recognised in paragraph 18.ii of the final report of the President of the European Council's Taskforce (a copy of this document has been deposited in the Library of the House).

The European Commission has now published legislative proposals which would create additional sanctions to encourage compliance by member states with both the EU's Stability and Growth Pact and its Broad Economic Policy Guidelines. However, these relate only to euro area member states and thus would not apply to the UK.

The "EU Semester" would require member states to submit their draft budgetary plans to the EU each spring. The Chancellor secured an exemption from this in the EU Stability and Growth Pact Code of Conduct, which explicitly states that the UK will send its final Budget to the EU after it has been presented to Parliament.

The EU has conducted fiscal and macroeconomic surveillance of its member states for many years under the Stability and Growth Pact and the Broad Economic Policy Guidelines. Many of the Commission and Taskforce proposals formalise this monitoring and are based on existing provisions of the Treaty under Articles 121 and 126.3-126.8. These articles apply to all member states and any proposals made under these Articles, if adopted, would apply to the UK.

The Commission's proposals will be considered by the Council and by the European Parliament in due course. They have been submitted to both Houses of Parliament for scrutiny in the usual way.

Once legislation has been adopted it is open to any one of the EU institutions or to a member state to bring the matter before the European Court of Justice in accordance with Article 263 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

DEFENCE

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much money his Department allocated to *(a)* the Stabilisation Aid Fund, *(b)* the Conflict Prevention Pool, *(c)* the Discretionary Peacekeeping Fund, *(d)* the BBC World Service, excluding the BBC World Service Trust, *(e)* the BBC World Service Trust, *(f)* the Special Reserve, *(g)* the British Council and *(h)* the security and intelligence fund in each year since 2005. [15972]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 11 October 2010]*: The Conflict Pool was formed by the merger of the Stabilisation Aid Fund and Conflict Prevention Pool on 1 April 2009, and is part of a separate HM Treasury settlement on conflict resources which is managed jointly by the Department for International Development, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Defence (MOD). The MOD made a contribution from its Treasury settlement of £6.5 million in 2009-10 to supplement funding available from the conflict pool for security and stabilisation work in Afghanistan.

The following table shows the sums transferred from funds voted by Parliament to the MOD to the Conflict Prevention Pool/conflict pool, the Stabilisation Aid Fund and the Security and Intelligence Account from 2005-06 to 2009-10. It also shows payments made to the British Council for specific services.

£ million

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Stabilisation Aid Fund				13	
Conflict Prevention Pool/Conflict Pool	49	51	29	47	67
British Council	0	2	2	2	2
Security and Intelligence Account	0	1	1	2	0

The MOD has not contributed to a Discretionary Peacekeeping Fund or allocated funds to the BBC World Service, the BBC World Service Trust or the British Council.

The MOD does not contribute funds to the Reserve, which is the responsibility of HM Treasury. The MOD is a net recipient of the Reserve which is used for paying the net additional costs of military operations such as those in Afghanistan and Iraq.

There is no security and intelligence fund. There is however a Single Intelligence Account to fund the business of the intelligence and security agencies. The MOD is reimbursed for some of the services it provides.

Falkland Islands: Deployment

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has made a recent assessment of the capacity of the armed forces to undertake an offensive military operation in the Falkland Islands; and if he will make a statement. [24300]

Nick Harvey: The Government remain unequivocally committed to the defence of the Falkland Islands. I refer the hon. Member to the Secretary of State for Defence's comments during the strategic defence and security review debate on 4 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1071-72W.

Military Aircraft

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* training and *(b)* other provision his Department plans to make to ensure the availability of a fully operational carrier strike capability as soon as the joint strike fighter fleet is available; and if he will make a statement. [24296]

Nick Harvey: As the Prime Minister made clear in his statement to the House on 19 October 2010, we plan to deliver the carrier strike capability from around 2020. We are currently revising our plans and will ensure everything necessary to deliver this capability is put in place.

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has made an assessment of the feasibility of launching a like-for-like equivalent of the Storm Shadow missile by a means other than a Tornado jet; and if he will make a statement. [24299]

Nick Harvey: The Ministry of Defence has assessed that it would in principle be technically feasible to launch the Storm Shadow missile, which is the UK's only air launched cruise-missile, from a number of in-service and future fixed-wing platforms other than the Tornado fast jet. These include the Harrier GR9, Hercules C-130J, A400M, Typhoon and joint strike fighter.

Nuclear Submarines: Accidents

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what systems there are aboard Astute-class submarines for the avoidance of *(a)* stationary objects and *(b)* groundings; [20124]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of sonar equipment on Royal Navy submarines. [20127]

Nick Harvey: Investigations into the grounding incident involving HMS Astute on 22 October 2010 are ongoing, and it is too early to say what the outcome of those investigations will be.

HMS Astute is fitted with a comprehensive suite of navigation aids including a regularly updated outfit of charts, the ability to fix her position using a Global Position System, visual bearings and radar ranges, and a Ship's Inertial Navigation system.

The submarine is also fitted with Echo Sounders, which are a derivative of those fitted to in-service submarines. These have been rigorously trialled and tested prior to this incident.

Unmanned Air Vehicles

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will have discussions with the Defence Manufacturers Association for the purposes of ensuring that future unmanned aerial vehicles are procured from UK manufacturers. [21701]

Nick Harvey: Our primary objective is to provide our armed forces with the equipment and support they need, at the right time, and at a cost that represents value for taxpayers' money. We continue to believe the best approach to delivering value for money is through purchasing goods and services from the global market, in which UK companies compete, including off-the-shelf where appropriate. The Ministry of Defence has a number of future unmanned aerial vehicle requirements at different stages of development. MOD regularly has discussions about its future requirements with interested companies, trade bodies and the National Defence Industries Council.

Welfare Pathway Pilots

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of progress in welfare pathway pilots for former service personnel in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* Wales; and when he expects to publish his conclusions. [23819]

Mr Robathan: Since November 2009 six councils have either joined, or are in the process of joining, the Armed Forces Community Welfare Pathway scheme across all three countries.

The trial period will end in October 2011. It is too early to draw definitive conclusions. A decision about the future of the scheme, based on the experience of the pilots, will be taken after October 2011.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Aung San Suu Kyi

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Burmese Government on the continued house arrest of Aung San Suu Kyi. [24413]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Aung San Suu Kyi was released on 13 November. Her detention had always been unjust and her release was long overdue. The Government repeatedly lobbied for her release. As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary (Mr Hague) said in his statement this weekend, Aung San Suu Kyi must now be allowed to assume the role of her choosing in the political life of her country without further hindrance or restriction.

BBC

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent meetings Ministers in his Department had with the director-general of the BBC; and whether the matter of pensions was discussed at those meetings. [24716]

Mr Jeremy Browne: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs met the director-general of the British Broadcasting Corporation on 20 October. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the transfer of the funding of the British Broadcasting Corporation World Service to the licence fee in 2014-15.

A full list of ministerial meetings with external organisations is published quarterly on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's website at

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/publications-and-documents/transparency-and-data1/hospitality/

Colombia: Police

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has received reports on the treatment of a group of indigenous people by members of the Colombian police in Putumayo province on 17 October 2010; and if he will make a statement. [24790]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We have received reports that on 17 October the Escuadrón Móvil Antimotines (riot police) allegedly beat and illegally detained six leaders of the Nasa indigenous community in Putumayo province.

Our embassy in Bogota has made representations to the Presidential Programme on Human Rights about the allegations and continues to monitor the situation.

Departmental Pay

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what allowances and payments in addition to salary were available to officials in his Department and its non-departmental public bodies in each year since 1997; and what the monetary value was of payments and allowances of each type in each such year. [18768]

Alistair Burt: Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff may be eligible for certain allowances depending upon where they are posted to work; in the United Kingdom or in a mission overseas. The following figures represent the total amount paid in financial year 2009-10. To obtain figures prior to 2009-10 would incur disproportionate cost.

Overseas

Diplomatic service staff have a global mobility obligation, and will typically spend over half of their careers outside of the UK, moving country every two to three years. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office pays overseas allowances to compensate for the extra costs incurred through moving frequently and living overseas, the diplomatic service compensation allowance (DSCA). DSCA breaks down into:

DSCA (diplomatic service allowance) is paid to compensate staff for the range of additional costs that result from the career-long disruption caused by frequent changes of location, and any indirect representational expenses. This can include the cost of visiting children at school back in England in the UK and transport to the UK for annual leave.

DSCA (hardship) is paid to compensate staff for the additional costs of maintaining quality of life at hardship posts. Examples include the cost of:

taking additional rest breaks from the country

security and the need for specialist four wheel drive vehicles

extra maintenance of vehicles where driving conditions/servicing are poor

preventative health measures and medicines.

Each post has an individual score in relation to hardship. Many posts do not reach the qualifying level and therefore people in them do not receive an allowance. Other posts do and for these the rate at which DSCA (hardship) is set depends on their individual score.

DCSA (spouse or partner pension compensation): there is a small contribution towards a pension for spouses who have lost their state pension entitlement through accompanying their spouse overseas for many years.

The total for DSCA amount paid in 2009-10 was £23,263,035.

Cost of living allowances (CoLA) compensate for the additional costs of maintaining UK living standards while staff are overseas. In countries where the cost of living is less expensive than in the UK, CoLA might be set at zero. CoLA may fall as well as rise depending on a number of factors. Rates of CoLA vary between countries and can go up or down during a posting. CoLA is based on data gathered by a private company, Employment Conditions Abroad (ECA). ECA supplies data on expatriate terms and conditions to a wide range of international companies, governments and organisations. Their data are based on information sent in by their members, i.e. expatriates employed by the companies who are part of the network, and are then checked against independent sources such as international surveys. ECA provides an objective and logical means of assessing CoLA requirements. The amount paid in 2009-10 was £20,853,196.

It is a condition of their employment that members of the diplomatic service must be prepared to serve anywhere in the world at any time during their career, sometimes at very short notice. Those with children have a legal obligation as parents to ensure that their children receive a full-time education from the age of five years. Members of the diplomatic service pay UK tax wherever they work and are entitled to have their children educated at public expense. Most parents prefer to take their children with them on postings, but in some countries we do not permit staff to take their children either for health or security reasons. In others, local schools of an acceptable standard are not available. The FCO helps staff meet their potentially conflicting obligations by providing financial support for their children's education in the UK where staff choose this, or are obliged to do so given local conditions in the country to which they are posted. Continuity of education is also an important factor, particularly at secondary level.

Staff serving in the UK were paid £7,487,435, with staff serving at posts overseas receiving £5,843,415

United Kingdom

The FCO uses pay allowances as a cost-effective way to recruit and retain staff to posts that require specialist skills or to compensate for long or unsocial hours. Allowances are non-consolidated monthly payments which are paid in lieu of a consolidated increase to basic salary and cease when staff move from qualifying posts. These allowances are subject to statutory deductions for income tax and national insurance contributions:

London location allowance: The amount paid in 2009-10 was £6,749,178.

Overseas location allowance (OLA). OLA has now been abolished as a result of the 2009-10 review of FCO allowances. The amount paid in 2009-10 was £1,366,466.

Market forces allowance, retention and recruitment allowance, professional qualification allowance, private office allowance, management reviewers/internal audit allowance. retention and recruitment allowance is payable only where our pay range cannot match the salaries we need to offer to recruit staff with unique or much sought after skills. It is awarded only with the express authority of the Deputy Director Human Resources. The total for all the allowances in this paragraph paid in 2009-10 was £1,204,413.

Shift disturbance allowance, unsocial hours payment. This is paid to all staff below the senior civil service (SCS) working in the UK or on home civil service terms of service overseas who work shifts as their normal pattern of work. The amount paid in 2009-10 was £531,544.

Hazardous conditions allowance is paid to staff on home tours who visit the top hardship posts—so is paid in the UK and is taxable. The amount paid in 2009-10 was £91,348.

Overtime/time off in lieu. All UK based staff, below the SCS, working at home and those undertaking duty visits overseas qualify for pre-authorised paid overtime or TOIL, and call/pager/mobile telephone allowances. This is paid to staff who have a specific roster commitment to be continuously and immediately available on-call outside office hours. The amount paid in 2009-10 was £1,917,631.

All of our allowances are employment law compliant.

It is not possible to break down the groups of allowances above without incurring disproportionate cost. Nor is it possible to provide information prior to 2009-10 without incurring disproportionate cost.

The information for non-departmental public bodies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Postal Services

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken to identify those of its services that could be provided through the post office network. [24927]

Alistair Burt: Neither the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) nor FCO Services currently have any plans to provide services through the post office network.

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what services provided by his Department were the subject of a contract with Post Office Ltd in 1997-98 and have subsequently become the subject of a contract with another supplier; and what the monetary value was of each such contract in *(a)* 1997-98 and *(b)* the latest period for which figures are available in each case. [24929]

Alistair Burt: There are no records of services provided by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office that were the subject of a contract with Post Office Ltd in 1997-98. There are currently no contracts held between the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), FCO Services and Royal Mail.

Departmental Regulation

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what regulations sponsored by his Department have been revoked in the last six months. [24387]

Alistair Burt: In the last six months, my Department has not revoked any regulatory measures.

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what new regulations sponsored by his Department have been introduced through *(a)* primary legislation and *(b)* statutory instrument in the last six months. [24501]

Alistair Burt: In the last six months, my Department has not introduced any regulatory measures. Regulations are not in general sponsored by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Energy: International Co-operation

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether agreements were made on energy subsidy reform at the G20 Seoul summit. [24665]

Mr Bellingham: At the Seoul summit, the Group of Twenty (G20) leaders reaffirmed their commitment to

> 'rationalise and phase out over the medium term inefficient fossil fuel subsidies, which encourage wasteful consumption, with timing based on national circumstances, while providing targeted support for the poorest'.

G20 Finance and Energy Ministers were directed to report back on the progress made in implementing country-specific strategies at the 2011 summit in France.

EU Action

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will review the use by the Council of Ministers of first reading agreements with the European Parliament under the co-decision procedure with a view to ensuring adequate scrutiny of proposed directives. [23055]

Mr Lidington: The procedure for agreeing EU legislation with the European Parliament through the ordinary legislative procedure is laid down by the EU treaties. There are no plans to seek a review. To reach a first reading agreement the Council must approve the European Parliament's first reading position. The UK is fully engaged in the consideration of proposals in the Council of Ministers before agreement is given to the European Parliament's position.

The UK Parliament is given the opportunity to scrutinise documents throughout the co-decision process, through formal explanatory memoranda issued to the scrutiny Committees in both Houses.

Iran: Terrorism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the extent of Iranian involvement with terrorist groups in *(a)* southern Lebanon and *(b)* Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [24877]

Alistair Burt: Iranian support to militia groups in southern Lebanon and Gaza is unacceptable. It further undermines international confidence in Iran and the Iranian Government's claim that it supports peace and stability in the middle east.

Israel: Borders

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the use of electronic terminals at checkpoints into Israel from the west bank; and if he will make a statement. [21937]

Alistair Burt: We are concerned at a number of Israeli practices in the occupied Palestinian territories, including restrictions on movement and access for all Palestinians.

While we welcome Israel's easing of some restrictions on movement and access in the west bank we remain concerned about the increase in temporary checkpoints and increasing restrictions on movement of Palestinians between east Jerusalem and the rest of the west bank.

Israel: Overseas Trade

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the state of British-Israeli trade relations; and what assessment he has made of their contribution to the UK economy. [24573]

Mr Prisk: I have been asked to reply.

Israel is an important trading partner for the UK. Exports of goods to Israel in 2009 were worth over £1 billion and exports of services, a further £500 million.

Bilateral trade in 2009 was worth £3.07 billion, surpassing the £3 billion target set in 2008. UK exports continue to increase in 2010—up 24% on the same period in 2009 (January to August).

Inward investment from Israel remains strong. Israeli firms are significant investors in the UK. Over 300 Israeli companies now have a physical presence in the UK, providing thousands of jobs. Over 50 Israeli companies are listed on the AIM and main London stock exchange.

Middle East: Politics and Government

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects of the recent visit of the Iranian President to Lebanon on the political situation in Lebanon; and if he will make a statement. [24882]

Alistair Burt: The political situation in Lebanon remains tense. The visit of President Ahmednijad has not changed that. We expect all countries to respect the sovereignty of Lebanon and to work for its stability. I regret very much the inflammatory statements made by President Ahmednijad during his visit to Lebanon. Such remarks do not contribute to the stability of Lebanon or the region.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Protect Employees in the Workplace

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has for the future of legislative provision to protect employees in the workplace. [23573]

Chris Grayling: The Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 (HSWA) provides the appropriate proportionate legislative framework to ensure the health, safety and welfare of those at work.

The Government's Forward Regulatory Programme, which is under review, will include details of any future legislative measures in this area.

21st Century Welfare

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library a copy of each response to his Department's consultation document 21st Century Welfare. [25096]

Chris Grayling: I will arrange for a copy of each response to be placed in the Library.

Council Tax Benefits

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the funding he plans to provide to local authorities for the distribution of council tax rebate will be ring-fenced. [23458]

Steve Webb: The Government are working to develop the new arrangements including the detailed administrative and funding implications for local authorities.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the rate of *(a)* sickness and *(b)* absence was in offices in each region operated by his Department and its agencies in the latest period for which figures are available. [23408]

Chris Grayling: The information requested for the rate of sickness absence in each region for October 2010, the latest period for which figures are available, is in the table.

Region	*Average rate of sickness*
East Midlands	9.1
East of England	8.7
London	7.8
North East	7.9
North West	8.6
Scotland	7.7
South East	8.9
South West	8.5
Wales	9.2
West Midlands	8.7
Yorkshire and the Humber	7.6

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions Personnel Computer, October 2010.

The information requested for other types of absence is not available in the required format and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Department has cut average sickness absence by 25%, from 11.1 days per employee per year in 2007 to 8.3 days per employee per year currently. The latter figure is below the rate of 9.6 days per employee per year reported by the Chartered Institute for Personnel and Development for the public sector in 2010. The Department is committed to reducing sickness absence further.

Departmental Travel

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of its expenditure on travel undertaken by *(a)* him and *(b)* each other Minister in his Department in (i) September and (ii) October 2010. [21856]

Chris Grayling: The following table gives details of expenditure on travel undertaken for each of this Department's Ministers during September and October 2010. The Department is currently reviewing travel expenditure across the board with a view to driving out inefficiencies.

DWP Ministers—expenditure on travel

	September 2009 (£)	*September 2010 (£)*	*Reduction (%)*	*October 2009 (£)*	*October 2010 (£)*	*Reduction (%)*
Total	47,818.70	14,726.12	69	52,177.30	13,549.94	74

Employment and Support Allowance

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people who will stop receiving contributory employment and support allowance after 12 months in each year to 2015. [19870]

Chris Grayling: The requested information will be available on 29 November 2010 alongside the autumn statement and will be deposited in the Library.

Claimants in the work-related activity group who stop receiving contributory employment and support allowance after 12 months will be able to claim income-related employment and support allowance if eligible. We estimate that 60% will be able to claim some income-related employment and support allowance. There will always be a safety net to support those who have no means of supporting themselves.

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the number of individuals in households in which at least one member works for at least 16 hours per week who will *(a)* have their income reduced and *(b)* fall below the equivalised poverty threshold of 60% of median household income as a result of the removal of contributory employment and support allowance after one year; and what the average amount is by which the income of affected households will be reduced as a result of that measure. [21915]

Maria Miller: The requested information will be available on 29 November 2010 alongside the autumn statement and will be deposited in the Library.

Claimants in the work related activity group who stop receiving contributory employment and support allowance after 12 months will be able to claim income-related employment and support allowance if eligible. We estimate that 60% will be able to claim some income-related employment and support allowance once their contributory entitlement has ended. There will always be a safety net to support those who have no means of supporting themselves.

The Department will publish full impact assessments for the proposed measures, in the normal way, when it lays the relevant legislation.

Employment and Support Allowance: Scotland

Miss Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has made a recent estimate of the number of households in *(a)* Aberdeen South constituency, *(b)* Aberdeen local authority and *(c)* Scotland which will be affected by the implementation of his proposal to limit to one year the payment of contributory employment and support allowance for those in the work-related activity group. [19407]

Chris Grayling: The requested information will be available on 29 November 2010 alongside the autumn statement and will be deposited in the Library.

However, to give a general indication of scale, at the end of February 2010, there were 43,070 people receiving contributory employment and support allowance in the work related activity group in Great Britain. The equivalent figure for *(a)* the Aberdeen South constituency was 60, *(b)* the Aberdeen city local authority was 190 and *(c)* Scotland was 3,850.

Claimants in the work related activity group who stop receiving contributory employment and support allowance after 12 months will be able to claim income-related employment and support allowance if eligible. We estimate that 60% will be able to claim some income-related ESA once their entitlement to contributory employment and support allowance has ended. There will always be a safety net to support those who have no means of supporting themselves.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

2. ESA statistics can be found at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=esa

3. Benefit type: The benefit type is defined as pay status at the caseload date. This may differ to the status at the start or end of the claim.

4. Stage of ESA claim: The stage of claim is derived from the amount of payment a claimant receives. There are a number of cases where the stage is unknown, these are claimants which do not receive any payment for ESA (credits only).

5. Constituencies used for February 2010 are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.

6. As ESA is still a relatively new benefit, the number of customers claiming contributory ESA in the Work Related Activity Group will be likely to increase between now and 2012. In addition, we have now begun reassessing 1.5 million people on existing incapacity benefits, and anticipate that over half of these customers will move onto ESA in the Work Related Activity Group. Some of these customers will be making a claim for contributory ESA. The number of people who will be subject to the one year time limit will therefore be likely to have increased by the time we introduce the measure in 2012.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100%.

Housing Benefit

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the oral statement of 9 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 168-69, on housing benefit, what the *(a)* composition, *(b)* sources and *(c)* timescale are of the £140 million funding for discretionary housing payments. [25095]

Steve Webb: The information requested about the £140 million discretionary funding for housing costs is in the following table:

	Source	*Purpose*	*Amount (£ million)*
2010-11	Department for Communities and Local Government	Homelessness prevention funding	10
2011-12	Department for Work and Pensions	Discretionary Housing Payments	10
2012-13	Department for Work and Pensions	Discretionary Housing Payments	40
2013-14	Department for Work and Pensions	Discretionary Housing Payments	40
2014-15	Department for Work and Pensions	Discretionary Housing Payments	40
Total			140

This funding is in addition to the £20 million yearly contribution which the Department already makes towards local authorities' discretionary housing payment budgets.

Housing Benefit: Finance

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the likely growth rate for *(a)* local housing allowance and *(b)* the consumer price index from 2013-14 to 2014-15 on the basis of the policy costings in the June 2010 Budget. [25090]

Steve Webb: Our current estimate for the likely growth rate from 2013-14 to 2014-15 for the local housing allowance is 4% and for the consumer price index 2%.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the level is of the uprating index referred to in the June 2010 Budget policy costings that was calculated on the basis of growth in housing benefit eligible rent and council tax benefit from 2001-02. [25091]

Steve Webb: The policy costing for the change to the non-dependant deduction rates announced at the June 2010 Budget was based on our understanding of the growth of housing benefit eligible rent and council tax benefit eligible council tax between 2001-02 and 2014-15, and incorporates historical data and internal forecast assumptions.

The non-dependant deduction rates that will apply from 2011-12 have not yet been announced. The increased rates will be included in the statement on uprating to be given to Parliament shortly and confirmed by way of legislation in the annual benefit Uprating Order. Implementation will be part of the Department's and local authorities' annual uprating exercises.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch East

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants of jobseeker's allowance in Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch East constituency have received hardship payments in the last 12 months. [25100]

Chris Grayling: The Department does not hold reliable data on the number of jobseeker's allowance claimants in the Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch East constituency who have received hardship payments in the last 12 months. Therefore, the information is not available.

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many claimants of jobseeker's allowance in Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch East constituency have contested benefit sanctions in the last 12 months; [25101]

(2) how many claimants of jobseeker's allowance in Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch East constituency have received benefit sanctions in the last 12 months. [25102]

Chris Grayling: There have been 1,070 labour market decisions resulting in a sanction or disentitlement for JSA claimants in the Cumbernauld Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch East constituency between August 2009 and July 2010, of which 190 decisions were reconsidered by a Jobcentre Plus decision-maker and 30 went to appeal.

Notes:

1. The statistics are JSA Labour Market Decisions—not JSA Payment decisions, where initial entitlement to claim JSA is decided. They include disentitlement decisions.
2. All figures show the latest decision given for each case referred—if a case has been reconsidered, the new decision is taken.
3. All figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Some additional disclosure control is applied.
4. Latest figures only available up to end July 2010.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: JSA Sanctions and Disallowance Decisions Statistics Database.

Mental Health Services

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 2 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 775W, on mental health services, if he will make it his policy that officials in his Department engaged in delivering the Work programme should receive specific training in recognising, and dealing with, the needs of people diagnosed with depression. [23817]

Chris Grayling: The Work programme will be delivered by contractors drawn from the private, public and voluntary sectors, as well as social enterprises. It will help people with a wide variety of needs, and providers will be given the freedom to design support based on an individual's needs. Specialist organisations will continue to have a role to play, and there will be lots of opportunities for them to work with larger delivery partners as subcontractors.

We will offer flexible support through Jobcentre Plus to customers before they are referred to the Work programme. The support that Jobcentre Plus delivers to customers across all working age benefits will allow more flexibility to Jobcentre Plus managers and advisers to judge which interventions will help individual customers most cost-effectively and meet local need.

Each Jobcentre Plus district has a mental health co-ordinator who supports advisers to provide tailored, personalised support to people who have mental health conditions and over the last year all Jobcentre Plus new claim advisers have had the opportunity to attend mental health training.

Jobcentre Plus learning products currently available for frontline staff include awareness of a range of customer groups including an overview of disability and health conditions, with signposts to sources of specialist help, including the disability employment adviser (DEA) role. DEAs, who focus on customers needing more extensive support, receive further levels of skills training appropriate to their customers, including skills practice in interviewing customers with depression. Furthermore, this learning will be reviewed as appropriate in accordance with the needs of the Work programme.

In addition, advisers, including DEAs, can seek help from their work psychologist colleagues to assist them in supporting customers where appropriate. All Jobcentres have access to DEA services, either by DEAs located within the Jobcentre or, for example, in more rural areas access to peripatetic DEAs who provide services across a number of locations.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Members: Correspondence

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Don Valley (Caroline Flint) of 28 October 2010 on Jenny Watson. [24208]

Robert Neill: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has replied directly to the right hon. Member.

Tenant Services Authority

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 13 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 313W, on housing: regulation, when he plans to announce the outcomes of the review of the Tenant Services Authority. [24417]

Grant Shapps: I announced the outcomes of the review of the Tenant Services Authority on 18 October. A copy of the resulting report can be found on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/socialhousingregulation

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Art Works: Auckland Castle

Helen Goodman: To ask the hon. Member for Banbury, representing the Church Commissioners, on what dates the Church Commissioners took decisions relating to the sale of the Zurbaran paintings and Auckland castle in 2010; and whether these decisions were amended on any subsequent date. [24978]

Tony Baldry: No decision on the future of Auckland castle has been made at this time and matters relating to the Zurbaran paintings housed within the castle have been discussed at each of the Church Commissioners Board of Governors meetings in 2010.

Helen Goodman: To ask the hon. Member for Banbury, representing the Church Commissioners, on what dates the Church Commissioners sought advice from *(a)* lawyers, *(b)* public relations consultants, *(c)* auctioneers, *(d)* estate agents and *(e)* other professionals in relation to the Zurbaran paintings and Auckland castle in 2010. [24979]

Tony Baldry: The Church Commissioners, in common with other land and property owners, take professional advice in connection with their interests and assets on a regular basis and cover a wide range of issues.

Helen Goodman: To ask the hon. Member for Banbury, representing the Church Commissioners, what costs the Church Commissioners have incurred for professional services in relation to the Zurbaran paintings and Auckland castle from *(a)* Mischon de Reya, *(b)* Chelgate, *(c)* Sotheby's and Christie's, *(d)* Smiths Gore and *(e)* other professionals in the last five years. [24981]

Tony Baldry: For reasons of commercial sensitivity the Church Commissioners are unable to disclose the details of any professional costs incurred.

Church Commissioners

Helen Goodman: To ask the hon. Member for Banbury, representing the Church Commissioners, which Commissioners attended each meeting of the Church Commissioners in 2010. [24977]

Tony Baldry: The Board of Governors' of the Church Commissioners has met four times this year. The majority of the board were present at each meeting.

Legal Advice

Helen Goodman: To ask the hon. Member for Banbury, representing the Church Commissioners, for what purposes the Church Commissioners have sought advice from *(a)* lawyers and *(b)* public relations consultants in the last five years. [24980]

Tony Baldry: The Church Commissioners regularly take specialist legal and other advice where we are duty bound to do so. In addition, the Church Commissioners would seek to use professional advisers to supplement and support our existing advisers and expertise.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Regulation

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what regulations sponsored by his Department have been revoked in the last six months. [24375]

Mr Duncan: In the last six months, the Department for International Development (DFID) has not revoked any regulatory measures.

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what new regulations sponsored by his Department have been introduced through *(a)* primary legislation and *(b)* statutory instrument in the last six months. [24490]

Mr Duncan: In the last six months, the Department for International Development (DFID) has not introduced any regulatory measures.

Developing Countries: Debts

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much and what proportion of his Department's aid budget he plans to allocate to debt relief in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [24453]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: In the SR10 settlement we have made provision for the UK's contribution towards the main international debt relief initiatives; the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI). We have also made provision for the additional debt relief that the UK provides to poor countries, including under the UK Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative.

SR10 debt relief allocations

	2011-12	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
Debt relief allocation[1] (£ million)	120	100	100	110
As a percentage of DFID DEL (not including conflict pool)[2]	2	1	1	1

[1] Figures rounded to nearest £10 million.
[2] Rounded to 0 decimal places.

Debt relief is also provided by other parts of the UK Government. The Government anticipate some debt relief for Sudan, Zimbabwe and others during the comprehensive spending review period, providing certain conditions are met.

MOPAN

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many donor countries participate in the multilateral aid assessment body MOPAN; what his policy is on the transfer of the management of MOPAN to the OECD's Development Assistance Committee; and if he will make a statement. [24353]

Mr Duncan: There are 16 donor country Governments in the Multilateral Organisations Performance Assessment Network, MOPAN: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Republic of Korea, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. MOPAN is an informal intergovernmental network with responsibilities shared out on a voluntary basis. The network is currently examining options as to how it could be managed in the future. One of these is to join the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD's) Development Assistance Committee (DAC), however, other options are also being investigated. We, along with other MOPAN member Governments, will look at the options carefully before deciding which is the most suitable for MOPAN.

Overseas Aid

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the number of children, mothers and babies whose lives were saved in 2009-10 as a consequence of his Department's programmes. [24451]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Using the methodology agreed by the G8 this year at the Muskoka summit, which was developed with the support of the World Bank, the World Health Organisation (WHO) and UNICEF, the Government's indicative estimate of the number of lives saved as a consequence of DFID programmes in 2009-10 is 150,000 children, 7,000 women and 35,000 newborns.

An important part of the new Business Plan for Reproductive, Maternal and Newborn Health will be a rigorous approach to achieving and monitoring results. The public consultation on the plan has just closed; we have received an unprecedented level of public and professional support.

Thailand-Burma Border

Malcolm Wicks: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation on the Thailand-Burma border, and if he will make a statement. [24634]

Mr Duncan: The situation on the Thailand-Burma border remains unstable following the recent outbreaks of fighting in eastern Burma. Most of the people who fled to Thailand this month have now returned to Burma. We are keeping the situation under review, in close touch with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, non-governmental organisations and the Thai authorities.

The Department for International Development (DFID) is providing £7.5 million between 2009 and 2012 for people affected by conflict in eastern Burma. This assistance is being delivered through a number of non-governmental organisations. It includes the provision of food, shelter and improved access to legal assistance for Burmese refugees in Thailand, as well as aid for health care, water, sanitation and food security for displaced people in eastern Burma. DFID has not been asked for additional funding in response to the most recent fighting.

TRANSPORT

Bikeability Scheme: Children

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of children who have participated in the Bikeability scheme in each year since 2007. [23376]

Norman Baker: The Government have been funding National Standard and Bikeability cycle training in schools since 2006-07 with detailed monitoring of delivery in place since 2007-08. Details of the training delivered are set out in the following table for the period 2006-07 to 2009-10.

					Number
	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*Total*
Local authorities	9,000	27,000	74,000	102,000	212,000
School sports partnerships	4,000	8,000	21,000	66,000	99,000
Total	13,000	35,000	95,000	168,000	311,000

Note:
1. Figures are rounded up to the nearest 1,000.

The figures are based on returns from local authorities and school sports partnerships.

Although we do not have an accurate figure for training places funded and delivered by local authorities in England in addition to those funded by the Government, we estimate local authorities outside of London deliver between 20,000 and 30,000 additional Level 2 National Standard or Bikeability places each year.

On 14 October 2010, the Government announced that Bikeability training for children will be supported for the remainder of this Parliament.

Driving: EU Action

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department has taken to increase the level of information-sharing between the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency and its counterpart organisations in Europe to reduce the number of vehicle offences committed by EU drivers without UK licences. [24835]

Mike Penning: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) shares information with EU member states when registering imported vehicles and exchanging driving licences. This helps prevent stolen vehicles from being registered in other member states and allows the validity of driving licences to be confirmed prior to exchange.

From January 2013, member states will be required to exchange information on driving licences they have issued, exchanged, replaced, renewed or revoked.

Driving: Insurance

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his most recent estimate is of the number of uninsured drivers in *(a)* England and Wales, *(b)* England, *(c)* Cambridgeshire Constabulary and *(d)* North East Cambridgeshire constituency. [24831]

Mike Penning: About 1.4 million vehicles (4% of the total) in Great Britain are estimated to be driven by uninsured drivers based on a comparison of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's (DVLA) database of registered vehicles and the Motor Insurance Database (MID). No information is held on a regional or constituency basis.

In addition to existing measures to tackle uninsured driving, a Continuous Insurance Enforcement scheme is planned. The scheme will identify uninsured vehicles by comparing information held on the same databases on a regular basis. Enforcement action will be taken against keepers of uninsured vehicles.

Ports

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has made an assessment of the merits of delegating responsibility for vessel reporting and clearance at UK ports to chartered shipbrokers; and if he will make a statement. [25099]

Mike Penning: No assessment has been made with respect to delegating responsibility for vessel reporting and clearance at UK ports to chartered shipbrokers.

Vessel arrival, departure, details of dangerous and polluting goods, and position reporting is the responsibility of the ship's master, agent, or operator.

Those reports are fed, via the UK's ports and harbours (who have the legal status of local competent authorities), to the consolidated European reporting system (CERS) operated by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. Those data are relayed, in turn, to the European Maritime Safety Agency's SafeSeaNet system. This process is entirely consistent with the requirements of the relevant European directives relating to vessel traffic monitoring and to port state control, and with the UK law.

The matter of clearance, whether it is for excise or for immigration purposes, is a matter for Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and the UK Borders Agency respectively.

Transport: Local Government Finance

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether the proposed block funding to local authorities for small transport improvement schemes will be ring-fenced; [19810]

(2) whether the proposed block funding to local authorities for highways maintenance will be ring-fenced. [19809]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 28 October 2010]:* No. Block funding provided to local authorities from 2011-12 for small transport schemes and highway maintenance will not be ring-fenced. This will give local authorities flexibility to spend the funding as they see fit to meet local priorities.

I recently announced the establishment of a £560 million Local Sustainable Transport Fund to enable local government to deliver sustainable transport measures that support local economies while reducing carbon. The fund will be allocated though a light touch bidding and assessment process which will maximise the discretion available to local authorities on how they use the funding. Further details about how the fund will operate will be published shortly.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Pay

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans her Department has for the future oversight of earnings and hours worked by agricultural and horticultural workers in England and Wales. [20816]

Mr Paice: We intend to abolish the Agricultural Wages Board and agricultural minimum wage regime, and to bring agricultural and horticultural workers in England and Wales within the framework of the national minimum wage legislation and working time regulations, in line with workers in all other sectors of the economy. This will require specific amendments to the relevant legislation, which will happen simultaneously with the abolition of the Agricultural Wages Board.

The Low Pay Commission will be asked to include agricultural workers in its evidence gathering for recommendations on the national minimum wage rate.

Enforcement of the national minimum wage is carried out by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC), on behalf of the Department for Business, Innovation, and Skills, and HMRC will take on responsibility for enforcing the legislation in respect of agricultural and horticultural workers.

Animal Welfare

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research her Department has *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* evaluated on levels of pain caused to cattle slaughtered by the halal method. [24198]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 16 November 2010]:* DEFRA and the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry commissioned and joint-funded research to investigate the effects of slaughter by ventral neck incision on the electroencephalogram (EEG) in calves (Project Number MH0129). This work commenced in January 2005 and the final report was published in the New Zealand Veterinary Journal in April 2009. It can be viewed at:

http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&Completed=0&ProjectID=13009

The work indicates that the neck cut associated with religious slaughter evokes a pain response in anesthetised calves.

Food: Labelling

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with which food industry *(a)* representatives and *(b)* organisations she has had recent discussions on the labelling of halal meat. [23926]

Mr Paice: I discussed the labelling of halal meat with chief executives of the major grocery retailers on 21 October. The issue was also discussed at a meeting with Shechita UK and Members of this House on 3 November. This topic was also covered in a meeting with the Business Services Association on 9 November.

I also intend to raise this issue when I meet representatives from the food manufacturing, retail and food service sectors later this month.

Food: Standards

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much *(a)* Government and *(b)* public sector funding was allocated to food meeting British Farm Assured standards in the most recent year for which figures are available; what estimate she has made of the monetary value to British farmers of this expenditure; and if she will estimate the level of revenue which would accrue to British farmers if all public sector food procurement met British Farm Assured standards. [23130]

Mr Paice: We estimate that the public sector as a whole spends just over £2 billion on food and food services each year and that about £922 million per year of this is spent on food and food ingredients. Of this, £322 million is spent by central Government and the remaining £600 million by the wider public sector. The most recent data on central Government food procurement are included in the third report on the proportion of domestically produced food in the public sector, published at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/policy/publicsectorfood/

This relates to central Government, those parts of the NHS supplied by the NHS Supply Chain and the MOD; it also includes data on "the percentage of farm assured food of all food supplied" on a Department by Department basis. The range varies from 0 to 100%. No estimates of the monetary value of this expenditure have been possible as we do not have detailed data on the proportion of specific commodities procured meeting farm assurance standards. We do not have any data on the proportion of food meeting farm assurance or equivalent standards procured by the wider public sector.

Forestry Commission

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what land is owned by the Forestry Commission in each constituency. [24527]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 16 November 2010]:* The public forest estate is owned or leased by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and placed at the disposal of the Forestry Commissioners under section 39(1) of the Forestry Act 1967. It comprises 18% of total forest area in England; 13% is owned by other public bodies and 69% is in private hands.

The Forestry Commission's estimate of the area of land which is owned or leased in each constituency in England as at 31 March 2010 is set out in the following table:

	Area (hectares)
Hexham Co Const	49,299
New Forest East Co Const	17,974
South West Norfolk Co Const	11,715
Penrith and the Border Co Const	11,624
Forest of Dean Co Const	10,427
Thirsk and Malton Co Const	10,047
New Forest West Co Const	9,639
Berwick-upon-Tweed Co Const	8,673
West Suffolk Co Const	7,386
Scarborough and Whitby Co Const	6,824
Copeland Co Const	5,473
Westmorland and Lonsdale Co Const	4,870
Torridge and West Devon Co Const	4,563
Gainsborough Co Const	3,176
Ludlow Co Const	3,158
North Herefordshire Co Const	3,123
Suffolk Coastal Co Const	3,109
Sherwood Co Const	3,034
Bishop Auckland Co Const	2,801
Devizes Co Const	2,441
Chichester Co Const	2,349
Central Devon Co Const	2,285
Workington Co Const	2,264
North Cornwall Co Const	2,087

	Area (hectares)
Bridgwater and West Somerset Co Const	2,083
Corby Co Const	2,064
Winchester Co Const	2,018
High Peak Co Const	1,906
North East Hampshire Co Const	1,893
North Dorset Co Const	1,606
Cannock Chase Co Const	1,558
Mid Dorset and North Poole Co Const	1,542
Bexhill and Battle Co Const	1,533
Grantham and Stamford Co Const	1,527
Ribble Valley Co Const	1,443
South Dorset Co Const	1,439
Bassetlaw Co Const	1,416
Richmond (Yorks) Co Const	1,398
Christchurch Co Const	1,394
Hereford Co Const	1,346
York Outer Co Const	1,345
Stone Co Const	1,305
Ashford Co Const	1,238
East Hampshire Co Const	1,152
Isle of Wight Co Const	1,151
Taunton Co Const	1,137
Stafford Co Const	969
Northampton South Boro Const	919
Ashfield Co Const	893
Eddisbury Co Const	879
South West Surrey Co Const	878
South East Cornwall Co Const	857
Mid Norfolk Co Const	799
Daventry Co Const	790
Blaydon Boro Const	732
North Norfolk Co Const	711
Salisbury Co Const	707
Mole Valley Co Const	685
North Devon Co Const	683
Arundel and South Downs Co Const	676
West Dorset Co Const	668
Lichfield Co Const	657
Canterbury Co Const	640
Lewes Co Const	633
Horsham Co Const	624
Newark Co Const	612
East Devon Co Const	586
Buckingham Co Const	578
Eastbourne Boro Const	570
Romsey and Southampton North Co Const	553
Derbyshire Dales Co Const	548
Selby and Ainsty Co Const	537
South West Devon Co Const	531
Rutland and Melton Co Const	498
Shrewsbury and Atcham Co Const	488
Wells Co Const	484
Folkestone and Hythe Co Const	480
Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland Co Const	478
Henley Co Const	473
Chesham and Amersham Co Const	469
North West Cambridgeshire Co Const	407
Wealden Co Const	403
Tiverton and Honiton Co Const	390
North Wiltshire Co Const	381
Louth and Horncastle Co Const	377
Tunbridge Wells Co Const	376
Aylesbury Co Const	373
Mid Bedfordshire Co Const	359
Penistone and Stocksbridge Co Const	359
North East Bedfordshire Co Const	343
Sleaford and North Hykeham Co Const	333
Maidstone and the Weald Co Const	312
Bolsover Co Const	303
South Derbyshire Co Const	297
Saffron Walden Co Const	296
Barnsley East and Mexborough Co Const	294
North Somerset Co Const	265
Wellingborough Co Const	263
Mid Sussex Co Const	257
Bracknell Co Const	240
Upminster Boro Const	234
North West Hampshire Co Const	219
Skipton and Ripon Co Const	215
Wyre Forest Co Const	215
North West Leicestershire Co Const	210
Weaver Vale Co Const	209
Stockton South Boro Const	199
Stratford-on-Avon Co Const	192
Sheffield, Brightside and Hillsborough Co Const	188
Braintree Co Const	187
Worsley and Eccles South Co Const	180
Wantage Co Const	168
South Suffolk Co Const	160
Warwick and Leamington Co Const	154
St. Helens South and Whiston Boro Const	151
East Yorkshire Co Const	148
Gravesham Co Const	147
Wycombe Co Const	145
Mansfield Co Const	131
South East Cambridgeshire Co Const	130
Knowsley North and Sefton East Co Const	123
Truro and St. Austell Co Const	114
North West Norfolk Co Const	108
Lancaster and Fleetwood Co Const	105
Don Valley Co Const	104
North Shropshire Co Const	104
Harwich and North Essex Co Const	102
North East Derbyshire Co Const	100
Reading West Co Const	98
West Worcestershire Co Const	96
Makerfield Co Const	96
Maidenhead Co Const	95
Doncaster North Co Const	95
Tonbridge and Malling Co Const	94
Rother Valley Co Const	93
Eastleigh Boro Const	90
Kingswood Boro Const	89
Milton Keynes North Co Const	83
Sedgefield Co Const	81
Salford and Eccles Boro Const	80
Basingstoke Co Const	79
Morecambe and Lunesdale Co Const	77
Warrington South Boro Const	73
Hemel Hempstead Co Const	70
Kenilworth and Southam Co Const	68
Broxtowe Co Const	62
Kettering Co Const	61

	Area (hectares)
Thurrock Boro Const	60
South West Hertfordshire Co Const	60
Beaconsfield Co Const	59
Staffordshire Moorlands Co Const	59
Leigh Co Const	57
Hornchurch and Upminster Boro Const	55
Guildford Co Const	54
South Swindon Co Const	54
South West Bedfordshire Co Const	51
Bury South Boro Const	50
Barnsley Central Boro Const	50
North West Durham Co Const	44
Exeter Boro Const	44
Birkenhead Boro Const	42
North Warwickshire Co Const	42
Havant Boro Const	42
Tatton Co Const	41
Bolton North East Boro Const	36
Crawley Boro Const	34
Rochdale Co Const	27
South port Boro Const	25
Wallasey Boro Const	19
Blackley and Broughton Boro Const	18
South Staffordshire Co Const	18

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what criteria relating to biodiversity will be applied to determine the disposal and retention of Forestry Commission land in England in the period from 2011 to 2014; [22972]

(2) what criteria relating to biodiversity are applied to determine the disposal and retention of Forestry Commission land in England. [22982]

Mr Paice: Every woodland and forest managed by the Forestry Commission has a set of 27 characteristics that are applied to it. Of these characteristics, 13 relate specifically to biodiversity interests, including whether the land has a protective designation such as site of special scientific interest or the presence of significant species such as red squirrels, European protected species (e.g. bats, dormice or great crested newt), birds of prey (e.g. ospreys and goshawks) or priority butterfly species.

Using these characteristics a careful assessment is made of the potential impact of a sale on the biodiversity interest of the land before a decision is made on whether or not to include it in the disposals programme.

Forests

Tony Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the net cost to the public purse of managing all the public forests in England in financial year 2009-10. [23820]

Mr Paice: For 2009-10, the cost relating to those forests managed by the Forestry Commission in England was £14,251,000. My Department does not collect information on the costs of managing other public forests.

Forests: Cycling

Tony Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if she will take steps to ensure that cycling will continue to be encouraged in any public forest which is sold or transferred out of public ownership; [23779]

(2) if she will take steps to ensure *(a)* the maintenance of and *(b)* free access to purpose-built mountain bike trails in any public forest which is sold or transferred out of public ownership. [23780]

Mr Paice: I wrote to all hon. Members on 29 October about this issue. DEFRA and the Forestry Commission will consult the public on proposals for the public forest estate in England. We will invite views from a wide range of potential private and civil society partners on a number of new ownership and management options while protecting public benefits. When publishing proposals we will explore further the options for securing and increasing the wide range of public benefits currently delivered by Government ownership, and how they might be achieved at lower cost.

Genetically Modified Organisms

Neil Parish: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the Government plans to determine its policy on genetically modified organisms; and whether she plans to discuss that policy at the next Agricultural and Fisheries European Council meeting. [23651]

Mr Paice: The Government are currently considering their overall policy on genetically modified (GM) organisms. The next meeting of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council is scheduled for 29 and 30 November, but there is no GM-related item on the current provisional agenda.

Milk: Prices

Neil Parish: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions there have been between her Department and the Office of Fair Trading on the price paid to dairy farmers for milk. [23869]

Mr Paice: DEFRA officials have had recent discussions with counterparts in the Office of Fair Trading concerning the EU High Level Group on Milk, including any potential benefits or impacts this may have on the price paid to UK dairy farmers for milk.

The High Level Group published its final report and recommendations on 15 June 2010 and called for a Commission response on contractual relations, the bargaining power of producers, provision for inter-branch organisations and transparency.

DEFRA officials continue to discuss outcomes which may follow the High Level Group process with the Office of Fair Trading.

Sustainable Development

Dr Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brighton, Pavilion, of

27 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 1094W, on the Sustainable Development Commission, what enhanced departmental capability and presence she expects to establish following the withdrawal of funding from her Department to the Sustainable Development Commission. [23010]

Mr Paice: We are currently considering the implications of the spending review and how the departmental budget will be shared across our priorities. We are also in discussion with the Sustainable Development Commission to establish which of its existing staff will transfer to DEFRA with the functions we are also transferring. These functions include some aspects of the commission's stakeholder engagement and capability-building work.

Water: Prices

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the compatibility of a national social tariff for water bills with Exchequer rules on levy-funded subsidies. [23359]

Richard Benyon: Levy-funded subsidies are classified as "tax and spend" in the National Accounts by the Office for National Statistics. Any new subsidy provided through a national social tariff would also be likely to be classified as "tax and spend". Any national social tariff treated as such would need to be consistent with Exchequer policy, and decisions on taxation are made by the Chancellor in the round.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Biofuels

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans his Department has for the sustainable exploitation of bioenergy resources from the agricultural sector. [25004]

Charles Hendry: Biomass heat and electricity could provide about 30% of the UK's 2020 target of 15% renewable energy (about 4.5%) of overall energy demand). Increased bioenergy deployment offers commercial opportunities for the UK's agriculture sector, which the Government are keen to see realised. Biomass resources include wood fuel from undermanaged woodlands; crop residues such as straw; waste resources such as manures, slurries, sewage sludge, waste wood and food waste; and purpose-grown perennial energy crops, such as short rotation coppice willow and woody grasses such as Miscanthus.

We are working to reduce costs and overcome barriers to deployment. Support to produce and supply biomass fuel is available for farmers and rural enterprises through the Rural Development Programme for England. We support the deployment of biomass electricity through the renewables obligation, and through feed-in tariffs for anaerobic digestion. We will support biomass heat through the new Renewable Heat Incentive from June 2011. These measures provide long-term revenue stability for investors and developers alike. Working with DECC, DEFRA aims to publish shortly a framework document for anaerobic digestion which will set out the steps Government consider need to be taken to increase deployment of this technology in England. This document will be the starting point for close collaboration between Government, industry and other interested parties.

It is essential that biomass fuel is produced sustainably. We intend to introduce sustainability criteria in April 2011 under the renewables obligation. The criteria will include minimum greenhouse gas emissions savings and restrictions to protect land important on carbon or biodiversity grounds.

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the carbon footprint caused by the importation of biomass which has been cut, dried and transported from its country of origin by sea to the UK and then transported within the UK to biomass plants for combustion. [25389]

Charles Hendry: In 2008, the Environment Agency, the Biomass Energy Centre and DEFRA developed a Biomass Environmental Assessment Tool (BEAT) as an aid to assessing the likely environmental impact of a biomass energy project in the UK. This tool calculates the emissions of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide over the whole lifecycle of a biomass transport of the biomass, to combustion at a power station or boiler and disposal of ashes.

This tool was used in the preparation of a report, 'Minimising greenhouse gas emissions from biomass energy generation', published in April 2009, that assessed the greenhouse gas (GHG) savings for biomass feedstocks used in heat and power schemes in the UK compared to fossil fuel. A copy of this report is available from the Environment Agency's website. This report showed that where imported biomass feedstocks were cultivated, processed and transported with due consideration for sustainability, significant GHG lifecycle savings compared to fossil fuel could be delivered. Good practices would include, for example, shipping the biomass in large container vessels and using renewable or low carbon energy to fuel the processing plant.

We are proposing to introduce sustainability criteria, under the renewables obligation, for the use of solid and gaseous biomass to generate electricity. These criteria include a GHG lifecycle emissions saving of 60% compared to fossil fuel and restrictions on the use of material from land important on carbon or biodiversity grounds. These criteria would apply to both UK and imported biomass feedstocks.

Biofuels: Feed-in Tariffs

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what levels of feed-in tariff he plans to adopt for the generation of *(a)* biogas, *(b)* biomethane and *(c)* electricity from anaerobic digestion. [25239]

Charles Hendry: We expect to be in a position to announce the details of the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI)scheme, including RHI tariffs and technologies supported, before the end of this year. This will include our decisions on biogas and biomethane.

Under the Renewables Obligation electricity generated by anaerobic digestion (AD) receives two Renewables Obligation Certificates (ROCs) per MWh. The feed-in tariff for electricity from anaerobic digestion is 11.5p per KWh for schemes of up to 500 kW and 9p per KWh for those between 500 kW and 5 MW.

Carbon Emissions: Business

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the introduction of mandatory carbon reporting for businesses under section 85 of the Climate Change Act 2008. [24666]

Gregory Barker *[pursuant to the reply, 6 July 2010, Official Report, c.147W]:* I met my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Lord Henley) (the Department responsible for policy on company reporting of greenhouse gas emissions) in October to discuss this issue.

Carbon Emissions: Housing

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will meet representatives of the heating and hot water industry to discuss the proposed Green Deal. [24093]

Gregory Barker: The ministerial team and my officials regularly meet a range of stakeholders on issues around heat demand and low carbon heat technologies including those representing the heating and hot water industry. During the past few months, the Green Deal has been part of these discussions. I and my officials will continue to meet a range of stakeholders as the Green Deal develops, including the heating and hot water industry.

Climate Change: International Cooperation

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress he expects to be made towards cutting carbon dioxide emissions at the 2010 Climate Change Conference in Cancun. [23206]

Gregory Barker: The Government are committed to working towards an ambitious global deal to tackle climate change. At Cancun, we want to see substantive progress made on a politically balanced package of decisions that help re-establish momentum towards that goal.

Our aim is that this package should include decisions on anchoring developed and developing country mitigation pledges into the formal UNFCCC process, agreement on the measurement, reporting and verification arrangements for emissions from both developed and developing countries, arrangements for the future governance of climate finance (including establishing the Green Fund), measures to reduce emissions from deforestation, as well as arrangements on market mechanisms, the technology mechanism and adaptation framework.

Departmental Postal Services

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the monetary value was of contracts between his Department and its predecessors and *(a)* Post Office Ltd. and *(b)* Royal Mail in (i) 1997-98 and (ii) each year since 2004-05. [24920]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) was created on 3 October 2008, merging functions previously undertaken by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS).

Because of the way information was held on the accounting systems of predecessor Departments, it is not possible to identify DECC's share of expenditure with specific suppliers prior to 2009-10.

Expenditure with the Post Office Ltd and Royal Mail for the financial years 2009-10 and 2010-11 are shown in the following table:

£

Supplier	*2009-10*	*1 April to 17 November 2010*
Royal Mail	3,172	679
Post Office Ltd	0	0

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department has taken to identify those of its services that could be provided through the Post Office network. [24921]

Gregory Barker: The Department does not deliver services of the type that would be suitable for delivery by post offices. Much of what the Department delivers is quite technical in nature, is through the use of energy company licences or is via regional telephone and web-based advice centres.

Departmental Regulation

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what new regulations sponsored by his Department have been introduced through *(a)* primary legislation and *(b)* statutory instrument in the last six months. [24496]

Gregory Barker: There has been no DECC primary legislation introduced into Parliament in the period from 15 May 2010 to 15 November 2010.

The following statutory instruments have been made by DECC Ministers in that period:

The Energy Act 2008 (Consequential Modifications) (Offshore Environmental Protection) Order 2010 (SI 2010/1513)

The Energy Act 2008 (Commencement No. 5) Order 2010 (SI 2010/1888)

The Energy Act 2004 (Commencement No. 10) Order 2010 (SI 2010/1889)

The Home Energy Efficiency Scheme (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2010 (SI 2010/1893)

The Sale of Electricity by Local Authorities (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (SI 2010/1908)

The Sale of Electricity by Local Authorities (England and Wales) Regulations 2010 (SI 2010/1910)

The Electricity and Gas (Carbon Emissions Reduction) (Amendment) Order 2010 (SI 2010/1958)

The Aviation Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme Regulations 2010 (SI 2010/1996)

The Radioactive Contaminated Land Regulations (Northern Ireland) (Amendment) Regulations 2010 (SI 2010/2145)

The Radioactive Contaminated Land (Modification of Enactments) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2010 (SI 2010/2146)

The Radioactive Contaminated Land (Enabling Powers and Modification of Enactments) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2010 (SI 2010/2147)

The Radioactive Contaminated Land (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2010 (SI 2010/2153)

The Storage of Carbon Dioxide (Licensing etc.) Regulations 2010 (SI 2010/2221)

The Electricity (Guarantees of Origin of Electricity Produced from Renewable Energy Sources) (Amendment) Regulations 2010 (SI 2010/2715)

Not included are any regulations made by the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority, or any regulations laid in draft but not yet made.

Fuel Poverty

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the effects of recent changes to *(a)* British Gas and *(b)* Scottish and Southern Energy tariffs on levels of fuel poverty. [24955]

Gregory Barker: The impact of recent changes in domestic energy prices on fuel poverty will lead to upward pressure on fuel poverty in 2011. However, the true effect will only be known when we have full information on prices from all suppliers, and full survey data used for compiling the estimates of fuel poverty, including the mix of domestic fuels used by households, the income of those living in the households and the energy efficiency of the housing stock. An assessment of the likely impact of all these changes will be made next summer when DECC publish 2011 projections of fuel poverty for England.

Fuel poverty projections for 2009 and 2010 for England were published in October in the annual report on fuel poverty statistics:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/fuelpov_stats/fuelpov_stats.aspx

Institute for Fiscal Studies

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department spent on services provided by the Institute for Fiscal Studies in each year since its creation. [23399]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change has spent nothing on services provided by the Institute for Fiscal Studies since its creation on 3 October 2008.

Regulation

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what regulations sponsored by his Department have been revoked in the last six months. [24381]

Gregory Barker: In the last six months, the Department has not revoked any regulatory measures[1].

However, we have introduced two deregulatory statutory instruments which prescribe a power to allow local authorities to sell electricity generated from renewable as well as combined heat and power sources:

The Sale of Electricity by Local Authorities (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (SI 2010/1908)

The Sale of Electricity by Local Authorities (England and Wales) Regulations 2010 (SI 2010/1910)

Also, my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, responsible for the Department's regulatory agenda, wrote to 250 of the Department's key stakeholders asking for their views on ways to reduce DECC's regulatory burden. The response letter from my noble Friend and a summary of responses to this exercise was published 12 November on the DECC internet site:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/about/better_reg/better_reg.aspx

My noble Friend's response announced plans to repeal 28 regulations. The exact process for repealing these is still being explored (a suitable vehicle for repeal needs to be found, and consultation with relevant parties such as the devolved administrations will need to take place for certain policies).

We will also be continuing to scrutinise our stock of regulation and pipeline measures inherited from the previous administration with a view to finding OUTs, for the one-in, one-out regulatory management system.

[1] *Notes:*

The Aviation Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme Regulations 2009 (SI 2009/2301) were revoked and replaced by the Aviation Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme Regulations 2010 (SI 2010/1996). The 2009 regulations will however continue to have effect for some purposes.

We have not included any revocations of DECC legislation by other Departments, or any partial revocations of DECC legislation.

We have not included any regulations revoked by the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority.

Renewable Energy

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 2 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 722W, on renewable energy, what estimate he has made of the change in *(a)* domestic and *(b)* commercial electricity bills consequent upon the provision of around 30 per cent. of electricity from renewable sources in 2020. [23665]

Charles Hendry: Based on our last published estimates in July 2010, we estimate renewables policies will add £105 (26%) to the average annual domestic electricity bill in 2020 and £246,000 (25%) to the average medium-sized annual non-domestic user's electricity bill in 2020 (compared with a bill in the same year in the absence of these policies, but including other energy and climate change policies). These estimates do not account for the potential offsetting impact from higher levels of renewables reducing wholesale electricity prices, which we estimate could be of the order of £6/MWh on average in the years to 2020.

The above estimates are based on a fossil fuel price scenario consistent with an $80/bbl oil price in 2020. In a world of higher fossil fuel prices ($150/barrel in 2020) the impact of renewables policies would be to increase domestic electricity bills by only £70 (13%) and add just £163,000 (12%) to the average electricity bill of medium-sized non-domestic users in 2020.

Wind Power: Coastal Areas

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the cost-effectiveness of off-shore wind turbines which do not require direct anchoring to the sea bed. [24307]

Charles Hendry: Offshore wind turbines that do not require direct anchoring to the seabed, so-called "floating turbines", are a new and emerging renewable energy technology. We are aware of one in the world—in Norway—so cost estimates are highly uncertain.

A recent study on behalf of the Offshore Valuation Group[1] indicates a levelised cost in the range of £120 to £201/MWh for floating offshore wind turbines in 2015. By 2045, it predicts that costs will reduce to £66 to £116/MWh. For fixed offshore wind, the same report indicates levelised costs of £91 to £168/MWh in 2015 and £50 to £90/MWh in 2045.

[1] The Offshore Valuation: A valuation of the UK's offshore renewable energy resource. Public Interest Research Centre, 2010:
http://www.offshorevaluation.org/downloads/
offshore_vaulation_full.pdf

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum: Finance

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for how long on average section 4 payment cards have been used by asylum seekers prior to *(a)* return to country of origin and *(b)* grant of UK immigration status. [23431]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency does not hold this information centrally. The UK Border Agency would incur a disproportionate cost in collating this information.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assistance for transportation costs is available for people in receipt of Section 4 support. [23481]

Damian Green: Under the Immigration and Asylum (Provision of Services of Services or Facilities) Regulations 2007 ("the 2007 Regulations") the Secretary of State may supply, or arrange for the supply of, facilities for travel for a qualifying journey to a supported person to (a) receive health care treatment, provided that the supported person has provided evidence that the qualifying journey is necessary; or (b) register a birth.

This is usually provided in the form of public transport tickets issued by the supported person's accommodation provider on behalf of the UK Border Agency.

Asylum: Glasgow

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what future arrangements her Department plans to make for asylum seekers in Glasgow following the termination of the contract between the UK Border Agency and Glasgow city council for the provision of accommodation and other services to asylum seekers. [24118]

Damian Green *[holding answer 15 November 2010]:* We will transfer those affected to an alternative provider operating in Glasgow by 3 February 2011. The affected service users are currently accommodated, under a sub contract arrangement, with Glasgow Housing Association. The other accommodation provider to whom we are transferring service users also uses Glasgow Housing Association (GHA) as a provider of accommodation, so no physical move of service users may be necessary.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her Department's policy is on the future dispersal of asylum seekers to Glasgow. [24119]

Damian Green *[holding answer 15 November 2010]:* Asylum seekers will continue to be dispersed to the remaining two housing providers in Glasgow, that is Angel Group and YMCA Glasgow.

Counter-terrorism

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consultation her Department undertook with *(a)* organisations and *(b)* individuals on the rapid review of counter-terrorism powers. [23050]

Nick Herbert: As part of the review of counter-terrorism and security powers, we have consulted civil liberty and human rights organisations, the police, prosecutors, the security and intelligence agencies, community groups, local authorities, victims' groups, organisations representing the legal profession, individuals who undertake statutory functions in relation to counter-terrorism and security legislation, organisations with an interest in photography and academics with an interest in counter-terrorism legislation. Consultations on the review have been held in Belfast, Edinburgh, Birmingham, Manchester and London. A number of members of the public have contributed to the review through the dedicated e-mail address which was provided for contributions.

A summary of the consultation process and the responses received will be published in due course.

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which organisations have submitted responses to the Government's rapid review of counter-terrorism powers. [23052]

Nick Herbert: The following organisations have submitted written contributions to the review of counter-terrorism and security powers:

Amnesty International
The Association of Chief Police Officers
British Irish Rights Watch
Campaign Against Criminalising Communities
The Chamber of Shipping
Cheshire West and Chester Council regulatory services
The Crown Prosecution Service
Demos
Disaster Action

Engage
The Equality and Human Rights Commission
Hertfordshire County Council
Human Rights Watch
Justice
Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
The Law Society
Liberty
Liverpool City Council
The Local Government Group
Metropolitan Police
National Policing Improvement Agency
National Union of Journalists
North Yorkshire Council
NUJ Parliamentary Group
Plymouth City Council
Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead
Royal Photographic Society
SceneThat
Scotland Against Criminalising Communities
The security and intelligence agencies
The Social Landlords Crime and Nuisance Group
Surrey County Council
Trading Standards Institute
Trading Standards North West
West Yorkshire Police Authority
Wolverhampton City Council

A range of other Government Departments have contributed to the review as have a number of individuals.

Departmental Press: Subscriptions

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department to which local newspapers her Department had a subscription between June 2009 and May 2010; on what date each such subscription started; and what the cost to the public purse was of such subscriptions. [24432]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office subscribed to the *Evening Standard* 2009 between June and October 2009 (after which it became a free sheet) at a total cost of £37.50. No further subscriptions were taken out for any other local newspaper for the period specified.

Departmental Public Expenditure

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much and what proportion of her Department's capital expenditure was allocated to *(a)* London and *(b)* the North West in each of the last five financial years. [21463]

Nick Herbert: The country and regional analysis is a yearly exercise in which departments participate. It allocates departmental spending to regions based on who benefits from that spending, not necessarily where the spending takes place.

On that basis the proportion of Home Office capital expenditure per specified region was as follows:

		Percentage
	London	*North West*
2005-06	14.2	8.2
2006-07	14.2	9.0
2007-08	13.5	8.1
2008-09	12.1	7.2
2009-10	11.0	6.9

Departmental Regulation

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what regulations sponsored by her Department have been revoked in the last six months. [24385]

Nick Herbert: The following regulations have been revoked in the last six months:

The Immigration and Nationality (Cost Recovery Fees) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/228) were revoked by the Immigration and Nationality (Cost Recovery Fees) (No. 2) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/2226) which were made on 7 September 2010.

The Misuse of Drugs (Licence Fees) Regulations 1986 (S.I. 1986/416) and the Misuse of Drugs (Licence Fees) (Amendment) Regulations 2003 (S.I. 2003/611) were revoked by the Misuse of Drugs (Licence Fees) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/2497) which were made on 12 October 2010.

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what new regulations sponsored by her Department have been introduced through *(a)* primary legislation and *(b)* statutory instrument in the last six months. [24545]

Nick Herbert: No new regulations have been introduced by primary legislation in the last six months.

The following regulations have been introduced by statutory instrument in the last six months:

The Firearms (Amendment) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/1759) which were made on 6 July 2010

The Misuse of Drugs (Amendment No.2) (England, Wales and Scotland) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/1799) which were made on 13 July 2010

The Immigration and Nationality (Cost Recovery Fees) (No.2) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/2226) which were made on 7 September 2010

The Police Pensions (Additional Voluntary Contributions) (Amendment) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/2235) which were made on 7 September 2010

The Police Authority (Amendment) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/2412) which were made on 30 September 2010

The Misuse of Drugs (Licence Fees) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/2497) which were made on 12 October 2010

The Controlled Drugs (Drug Precursors) (Intra-Community Trade and Community External Trade) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/2564) which were made on 19 October 2010

The Police Act 1997 (Criminal Records) (Guernsey) (Amendment) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/2700) which were made on 8 November 2010

The Police Act 1997 (Criminal Records) (Jersey) (Amendment) Regulations 2010 (S. 1.2010/2701) which were made on 8 November 2010

The Police Act 1997 (Criminal Records) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/2702) which were made on 8 November 2010.

Domestic Violence

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations her Department has received on the piloting of domestic violence protection orders. [24644]

Mrs May *[holding answer 17 November 2010]:* We have had representations from members of the Opposition, members of the public, the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and the National Society for the Prevention against Cruelty to Children (NSPCC). I will set out future policy in this area in due course.

International Organization for Migration: Finance

Mr Nuttall: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding her Department allocated to the International Organization for Migration in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010. [24050]

Damian Green: The funding allocated by the Department to the International Organization for Migration in the financial years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 was as follows:

	£
2007-08	16,937,792
2008-09	12,298,039
2009-10	13,237,565

Note:
These figures are of payments actually made during the financial years in question.

This is internal management information and is subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

Internet

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress her Department is making on ending the storage of internet and email records without good reason. [19426]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 25 October 2010]:* The Government will legislate to ensure that the ability of the security intelligence and law enforcement agencies to obtain communications data is proportionate to the natural security and law enforcement needs of the country and is accompanied by appropriate civil liberties safeguards.

Olympic Games 2012: Security

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether she *(a)* has made and *(b)* plans to make any changes to the London 2012 Olympics security budget as a result of the outcome of the comprehensive spending review; [23191]

(2) what funding her Department has allocated for security for the London 2012 Olympics in *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12 and *(c)* 2012-13. [23325]

Mrs May *[holding answer 11 November 2010]:* Detailed spending plans for the security of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games are being considered in the light of the comprehensive spending review settlement and the Government's recent audit and review of Olympics security planning. We intend to make a further announcement next month. Funding for the Olympics security will be prioritised within the Home Office budget and we will ensure sufficient funding is in place to deliver a safe and secure Olympic Games in 2012.

Police: Accountability

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost of elections for directly-elected police commissioners. [15152]

Nick Herbert: The Government's Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill will be accompanied with a legislative impact assessment which will set out the costed estimate for the election of police and crime commissioners.

Provision for the costs of electing commissioners was included in the police settlement announced on 20 October. This funding was specifically provided in order to prevent costs falling on force budgets.

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of the election of a police commissioner for the Devon and Cornwall police force area. [21370]

Nick Herbert: The Government's Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill will be accompanied with a legislative impact assessment which will set out the overall cost estimates for police and crime commissioners.

Provision for the costs of electing commissioners was included in the police settlement announced on 20 October. This funding was specifically provided in order to prevent costs falling on force budgets.

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what voting system will be used in elections for police and crime commissioners. [23851]

Mrs May *[holding answer 12 November 2010]:* Our consultation document, "Policing in the 21st Century", published on 26 July 2010, set out the Government belief that a preferential voting system is the right option. The consultation exercise on these proposals closed on 20 September and a detailed response will be published shortly.

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department from which heading in her departmental budget funds will be provided for the costs of establishing police and crime commissioners. [23863]

Mrs May *[holding answer 12 November 2010]:* Provision for the costs of electing police and crime commissioners was specifically included in the police settlement announced on 20 October.

Police: Retirement

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers *(a)* retired, *(b)* resigned and *(c)* took voluntary redundancy in each of the last three years. [24012]

Mrs May *[holding answer 15 November 2010]:* The following table provides the available data which show the number of police officers retired and resigned as at 31 March 2008 to 2010, by police force area.

Retirement figures include those that have early medical retirement, medical retirement after 30 years of service and normal retirement.

Resignation figures include voluntary redundancies.

Number of police officers who have retired and resigned between 2007-08 and 2009-10, by police force area[1, 2, 3]

	2007-08		*2008-09*		*2009-10*	
	Retired	*Resigned*	*Retired*	*Resigned*	*Retired*	*Resigned*
Avon and Somerset	110	48	95	28	93	26
Bedfordshire	31	31	29	25	29	19
Cambridgeshire	36	12	36	25	36	27
Cheshire	80	17	66	17	75	23
Cleveland	62	23	54	19	55	13
Cumbria	48	11	44	21	39	22
Derbyshire	63	39	57	34	73	25
Devon and Cornwall	77	38	134	37	70	20
Dorset	58	26	48	14	76	11
Durham	73	19	62	16	63	8
Dyfed-Powys	41	12	38	9	40	14
Essex	77	73	96	53	110	43
Gloucestershire	41	18	40	12	30	11
Greater Manchester	230	136	210	97	219	68
Gwent	47	24	53	22	33	8
Hampshire	133	46	140	45	134	59
Hertfordshire	39	50	33	34	47	38
Humberside	60	40	82	36	73	14
Kent	113	57	77	57	85	55
Lancashire	109	34	97	24	110	29
Leicestershire	58	53	55	35	53	28
Lincolnshire	61	16	51	15	68	20
London, City of	20	16	35	5	24	9
Merseyside	141	41	177	47	182	34
Metropolitan Police	735	360	793	383	758	273
Norfolk	52	16	63	31	54	17
Northamptonshire	31	25	31	19	31	12
Northumbria	143	46	134	48	114	31
North Wales	67	16	46	14	56	7
North Yorkshire	38	31	51	28	50	20
Nottinghamshire	60	23	79	25	64	23
South Wales	71	80	100	88	108	32
South Yorkshire	104	40	110	30	117	15
Staffordshire	63	24	71	22	73	6
Suffolk	24	23	37	32	44	32
Surrey	58	47	58	52	47	33
Sussex	84	76	87	60	70	79
Thames Valley	122	78	91	51	133	58
Warwickshire	24	20	26	9	46	8
West Mercia	77	32	96	28	102	23
West Midlands	221	91	255	109	276	95
West Yorkshire	184	84	209	73	207	60
Wiltshire	29	28	39	29	24	16
Total	3,996	2,020	4,184	1,854	4,187	1,461

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of constituent items.

[2] Retirement figures include those that have early medical retirement, medical retirement after 30 years of service and normal retirement.

[3] Resignation figures include voluntary redundancies.

Terrorism

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects her Department's review of counter-terrorism legislation to consult Lord Carlile of Berriew. [23676]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 12 November 2010]:* Home Office officials will continue to consult Lord Carlile of Berriew QC on the review of counter-terrorism and security powers. As set out in the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary on 13 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 797-809, the review is being conducted by the Home Office and proposals made by Lord Carlile QC will be fully considered as part of the review.

UK Border Agency: Glasgow

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with the chief executive of the UK Border Agency on the termination of the contract between the UK Border Agency and Glasgow city council for the provision of accommodation and other services to asylum seekers; and if she will make a statement. [24120]

Damian Green *[holding answer 15 November 2010]:* The Secretary of State for the Home Department has not discussed the termination of the contract between the UK Border Agency and Glasgow city council with the chief executive of the UK Border Agency. She does not intend to make a statement on this matter.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether compensation will be payable by the UK Border Agency to Glasgow city council following the termination of the contract between these bodies for the provision of accommodation and other services to asylum seekers. [24121]

Damian Green *[holding answer 15 November 2010]:* The UK Border Agency will be liable for early termination costs which have not yet been determined. These costs will be significantly lower than the financial savings that will be realised by moving service users to alternative providers already operating in Glasgow.

Visas

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what date she plans to implement her proposal for entrepreneur visas; on what criteria applications for such visas will be assessed; how many such visas she expects to be granted in the first 12 months of the operation of that visa programme; and if she will make a statement. [23677]

Damian Green *[holding answer 12 November 2010]:* We will announce full details of our proposals for the entrepreneur category in due course.

JUSTICE

Departmental Press: Subscriptions

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice to which local newspapers his Department had a subscription between June 2007 and May 2010; on what date each such subscription started; and what the cost to the public purse was of such subscriptions. [24431]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) subscribes to many different periodicals and professional magazines (hard copy and online via individual purchase and subscription) for both staff and the judiciary.

It would incur disproportionate costs to examine each transaction under the relevant accounting codes and research whether it is a subscription or one off purchase, as well as to whether the publication in question is a local newspaper.

Accounting systems for the MoJ, HMCS, Tribunals Service and OPG do not differentiate between local papers, national papers or magazines and periodicals. The same account codes also include some books. The natural account codes for the National Offender Management Service do not differentiate between purchased publications and publications created for their organisation.

Departmental Regulation

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what regulations sponsored by his Department have been revoked in the last six months; [24386]

(2) what new regulations sponsored by his Department have been introduced through (a) primary legislation and (b) statutory instrument in the last six months. [24500]

Mr Djanogly: In the last six months, the Ministry of Justice has made one revocation instrument—the Local Land Charges (Amendment) Rules 2010 which revoked the fee paid for a personal search of the local land charges register and came into effect on 17 August 2010.

The Ministry of Justice has not introduced any primary legislation during the last six months. However, it has made 22 statutory instruments in the last six months including the following which have regulatory impact:

The Legal Services Act 2007 (Commencement No.8 Transitory and Transitional Provisions) Order 2010.

The Legal Services Act 2007 (Legal Complaints) (Parties) Order 2010.

Fines: Insurance

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many fines were imposed for vehicle insurance offences in *(a)* Cambridgeshire constabulary and *(b)* North East Cambridgeshire constituency in the last 12 months; [24832]

(2) what estimate he made of the average monetary value of a fine imposed for a vehicle insurance offence in *(a)* Cambridgeshire constabulary and *(b)* North East Cambridgeshire constituency in the last 12 months. [24833]

Mr Blunt: In 2009 (latest available), there were 1,866 findings of guilt for vehicle insurance offences at all courts within Cambridgeshire police force area. Of these findings of guilt, 1,260 fines were imposed and the average fine imposed was £227.

Information is not available at constituency level; therefore it is not possible to supply data for the North East Cambridgeshire constituency.

Court proceedings data for 2010 are planned for publication in 2011.

Vehicle insurance offences can also attract a fixed penalty notice. Figures provided by the Home Office on the number of fixed penalty notices issued for vehicle insurance offences in Cambridgeshire in 2008-09 (latest available) is 321. Data held by the Home Office cannot separately identify tickets issued in North East Cambridgeshire.

Fixed penalty notices issued for this offence are of the value of £200.

Motoring offences data for 2010 are planned for publication by the Home Office in April 2011.

Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will estimate the effects on the budget of the Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit of the proposed reduction in funding from the Legal Services Commission. [25037]

Mr Djanogly: Decisions made under the tender process for the award of legal aid contracts are a matter for the Legal Services Commission (LSC), which is responsible for administering the legal aid scheme.

In accordance with the Public Contract Regulations, when existing legal aid contracts were due to end in 2010, the LSC was required to run an open tender process for legal aid work. This meant using criteria that enabled both existing and new entrants to bid for their allocation of cases known as "New Matter Starts" (NMS). In all areas where the volume of NMS tendered for was greater than those available, as in the North West Area Greater Manchester Access Point, selection criteria were applied, and NMS were awarded according to the ranking of the bid.

In the financial year 2009-10 Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit started 381 Asylum and 143 Immigration NMS.

In the tender, Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit scored the same points as several other organisations, therefore NMS were allocated to them on a pro-rata basis. They were awarded 162 Asylum and 33 Immigration NMS when the new contracts commenced on 15 November.

As the LSC does not have detailed knowledge of Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit's accounts and other sources of funding they receive, it is not in a position to comment on their budget.

Information Commissioner's Office: Legal Action

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what material legal actions the Information Commissioner's Office has initiated against people or companies alleged to have broken UK law in each of the last 10 years; and how many such actions resulted in a conviction in each such year. [24401]

Mr Djanogly: Details of legal actions initiated by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) are set out in the following tables.

Data Protection Act 1998

	Prosecutions	*Convictions*	*Undertakings*	*Enforcement notices*
2000-01	21	21	n/a	4
2001-02	15	[1]33	n/a	4
2002-03	11	80	n/a	4
2003-04	8	8	n/a	No information available
2004-05	12	12	2	No information available
2005-06	16	16	11	No information available
2006-07	13	13	13	6
2007-08	11	[2]10	9	9
2008-09	[3]19	14	14	6
2009-10	9	9	57	15

ICO prosecutions under the Data Protection Act have sometimes been for multiple offences.

Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations 2003[4]

	Enforcement notices	*Convictions*[5]	*Enforcement orders*	*Undertakings*
2000-01	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2001-02	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2002-03	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2003-04	0	0	n/a	0
2004-05	0	0	n/a	0
2005-06	2	0	n/a	0
2006-07	5	0	0	2
2007-08	5	1	0	[6]8
2008-09	3	0	0	0
2009-10	4	1	[7]1	0

Freedom of Information Act 2000[8]

	Practice recommendations[9]	*Enforcements*[10]
2000-01	n/a	n/a
2001-02	n/a	n/a
2002-03	n/a	n/a
2003-04	n/a	n/a
2004-05	n/a	n/a
2005-06	0	0
2006-07	1	1
2007-08	4	0
2008-09	3	0
2009-10	3	0

[1] In 2001-02 there were 16 withdrawals, nine offences lay on file, and there were eight acquittals.

[2] There was one desertion in 2007-08.

[3] In 2008-09 there were five withdrawals.

[4] The Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations came into force in December 2003.

[5] Convictions for breach of Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations enforcement notices.

[6] This includes three undertakings secured under part 8 of the Enterprise Act 2002.

[7] The ICO assisted West Sussex Trading Standards in their successful application for an enforcement order obtained under the Enterprise Act 2002 for breaches of the Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations.

[8] The Freedom of Information Act 2000 came into force in 2005, and the Commissioner's Office received its first Freedom of Information complaints at the end of the 2004-05 financial year.

[9] A practice recommendation can be issued by the Information Commissioner where a public authority does not conform to the codes of practice associated with the Act.

[10] An enforcement notice under the Freedom of Information Act is a legal order the Information Commissioner can make to require a public authority to address its failure to comply with part 1 of the Freedom of Information Act. In practice, this is most likely to be used where there is systemic or repeated non-compliance.

Source:

This information has been provided by the ICO.

Office of the Information Commissioner: Personnel

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff of the Office of the Information Commissioner are employed solely to process complaints made to that office. [24400]

Mr Djanogly: 150 staff at the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) deal solely with complaints, and a further 83 staff deal with complaints in addition to other duties in enforcement or audit work, or answering inquiries.

This information has been provided by the ICO.

Prisons: Education

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners have received *(a)* degrees and *(b)* higher education qualifications in each year since 2007. [25089]

Mr Blunt: NOMS does not centrally hold data on the number of prisoners attaining degrees or higher education qualifications. Most Higher Education (HE) courses are provided by the Open University (OU) who have provided data, but there are likely to be some additional prisoners studying HE qualifications via distance learning with other providers.

The following table includes data provided by the OU and shows the number of prisoner attainments between 2006 and 2010[1].

[1] Data excludes students who received degree or HE qualifications following release from custody after starting their course in prison.

Academic year	*Diploma*	*Certificates*	*Post Grad. cert/ diploma*	*BA/BSc*	*MA/MSc*	*Total*
2006/07	25	98	12	17	2	154
2007/08	21	139	—	23	3	186
2008/09	35	115	1	30	1	182
2009/10	25	77	2	21	3	128

Prisons: Opinion Polls

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to allow political opinion polling to take place in prisons. [24807]

Mr Blunt: There are no plans for political opinion polling to take place in prisons.

Young Offender Institutions: Population

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* population and *(b)* capacity is of young offenders institutions in (i) England and Wales and (ii) the South East. [24560]

Mr Blunt: Provisional custody population figures and capacity for young offenders (including 18-year-olds) in young offenders institutions (YOIs) are shown in the following table for September 2010.

September 2010	*Beds occupied*	*Beds commissioned*
England and Wales		
YOI (inc. 18)	1,892	2,297
South East		
YOI (inc. 18)	147	159

Notes

1. These figures are provisional until they are finalised in the Youth Justice Board (YJB) Annual Workload Statistics 2009-10.

2. These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and can be subject to change over time.

3. The figures given for the South East of England relate to available capacity and population at HMYOIs Cookham Wood and Downview's Josephine Butler Unit—these being the primary locations for young people given custody within this region.

Youth Justice: Greater London

Mr Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding his Department has allocated for youth crime provision in London in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and what estimate he made of the amount of such funding allocated in respect of young people aged *(a)* 12 years and under, *(b)* between 13 and 17 years and *(c)* between 18 and 24 years in 2009-10. [24629]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice has provided the following amounts to youth offending teams in London over the last five years:

	£
2008-09	23,572,365
2007-08	21,311,756
2006-07	19,983,897
2005-06	17,118,846
2004-05	14,547,630

These figures are inclusive of the funding provided by the Home Office and Department for Education, the exact amounts could not be separated due to disproportionate costs.

The funding provided to youth offending teams in London in 2009-10 is £24,428,567. It is not known what proportion of this is allocated to different age groups.

The Ministry of Justice provided £4.65 million in funding to the Department for Education in 2009-10 for the implementation of the non-family element of the Youth Crime Action Plan, a portion of this funding would have been spent in the London area.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Browne Review

22. **Elizabeth Truss:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what international comparisons he made of university fees and student loans systems and their effect on disadvantaged groups in formulating his response to the recommendations of the Browne review. [24742]

Mr Willetts: The Department recently commissioned a study of 17 comparator countries and published a subsequent research report entitled "Review of Student Support Arrangements in Other Countries".

This showed that studies of the impact of student loans on participation generally indicate no adverse impact on participation of lower-income groups when an increase in tuition fees occurs alongside enhanced loan and grant provision.

Competition Policy

Mr Watts: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the future of his Department's competition policy. [24730]

Mr Davey: The Government have announced they will consult on proposals to strengthen the competition regime and deliver more streamlined and consistent processes for businesses by bringing together the Competition Commission and the competition functions of the Office of Fair Trading to form a single competition and markets authority.

The aim is to enhance further an already world-class regime to the benefit of consumers, and to growth and productivity of the economy. We expect to issue the consultation document in the new year.

Broadband: Wales

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions Ministers and officials in his Department have had with Members of the National Assembly for Wales other than Ministers in the Welsh Assembly Government on a proposed pilot in Wales for high speed broadband services. [24846]

Mr Vaizey: BIS Ministers did not have any meetings with members of the National Assembly for Wales about the superfast broadband pilots prior to their selection but officials had regular dialogue with all the devolved Administrations and regional development agencies prior to the selection of the superfast broadband pilots. My officials continue to work with the Welsh Assembly Government on ways in which we can together help deliver broadband rollout.

Business

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what information his Department holds for benchmarking purposes on *(a)* industrial sector, *(b)* mean growth rate, *(c)* size and *(d)* formal links to scientific institutions of high growth businesses in other countries. [24480]

Mr Prisk: BIS does not hold its own information on high growth firms in other countries but makes use of material published by the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA), the European Commission, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) among other organisations, though this is not used primarily for benchmarking purposes.

The proportion of innovating businesses who collaborate, including with the science base, is available for some countries from the regular Innovation Surveys carried out in Europe and around the world. But these do not identify high growth businesses—a group that is likely to change over time.

Details on the group of businesses identified as being high growth in the UK is included in the research report published by NESTA entitled "Measuring Business Growth", available at

http://www.nesta.org.uk/publications/reports/assets/features/measuring_business_growth

This includes comparisons with selected countries on the share of enterprises defined as high growth, although detailed comparisons by size, sector and growth rate are not available.

The OECD is about to publish the third annual publication of "Measuring Entrepreneurship: a digest of indicators" which includes data produced using its definition for high growth businesses from 15 OECD countries. The UK (Office for National Statistics) is yet to supply these data to the OECD, but once the report is available, it will enable the UK to benchmark with other countries.

Business: Finance

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he plans to take to increase access to finance for small and medium-sized enterprises. [24848]

Mr Prisk: The coalition Government are committed to ensuring that viable SMEs have access to the finance they need to support growth.

On 1 November we published our response to the consultation on business finance issues, "Financing a private sector recovery" which is available at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/businessfinance

We have also published our strategy "Backing small business", setting out new measures to help SMEs grow and to boost enterprise, available at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/backing-small-business

There are various measures in place to support access to finance for businesses. The Government aim to continue to support and improve the diversity of sources and access to finance for SMEs and businesses through:

A four year extension to the Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG) making around £2 billion available to viable SMEs without a credit history or lacking sufficient collateral.

An increased commitment to the Enterprise Capital Fund programme of £200 million to support small businesses with the highest growth potential, providing more than £300 million of venture capital investment into the equity gap after both Government and private sector funding are combined.

Welcoming the banks' announcement of a new £1.5 billion Business Growth Fund, to provide equity funding of between £2 million and £10 million for small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) with strong growth potential.

The Government will also work with the British Bankers' Association's Business Finance Taskforce and the banks on a range of commitments set out in their response to the Green Paper and which will assist SMEs with access to finance issues, including their commitments on improving the way they deal with complaints from SME customers.

Finally, the Government continue to monitor performance against the legally binding lending commitments agreed with The Royal Bank of Scotland Group and Lloyds Banking Group. These will deliver £50 billion and £44 billion of business lending this year respectively, providing businesses with capital for investment and growth.

Hairdressing: Licensing

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what steps his Department has taken to prevent private companies claiming to be licensing authorities in the hairdressing sector in the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [24800]

(2) if he will take steps against private companies which operate bogus licensing arrangements in the hairdressing sector; [24801]

(3) what his policy is on private companies issuing licences to trade without government backing in competition with existing regulatory bodies created by Act of Parliament. [24802]

Mr Davey: A person does not need a licence to operate as a hairdresser. However, to run a hairdressing business it may be necessary to register with the environmental heath department of the local authority if they have adopted local byelaws under the Public Health Act 1961.

It is an offence under existing legislation for private companies to mislead hairdressers that they require a licence to operate, or to falsely claim to be licensing authorities in the hairdressing sector. The Business Protection from Misleading Marketing Regulations 2008 prohibits misleading business-to-business advertising and marketing statements.

The regulations are enforced by local authority Trading Standards Services and the Office of Fair Trading.

Israel

Richard Harrington: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on British-Israeli scientific co-operation; and if he will make a statement. [24639]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 17 November 2010]:* Through UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) and the Science and Innovation Network (SIN), the British Government actively encourages British-Israeli Scientific Co-operation. It is a key area of bilateral co-operation between Israel and the UK.

During his recent visit to Israel, the Foreign Secretary was pleased to announce that 10 new joint British-Israeli research projects were to be funded through the Britain Israel Research and Academic Exchange Partnership (BIRAX). The projects will develop innovative approaches to challenges in the Energy Sector and the Environment.

Richard Harrington: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the *(a)* level of co-operation between British and Israeli industry and *(b)* effects of that co-operation on the British manufacturing and high technology sector. [24640]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 17 November 2010]:* No assessment has been made on this particular issue. However the British Government thoroughly support the development of collaborative links between British and Israeli industry.

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of Israeli-UK trade relations within the science and technology sector; and if he will make a statement. [25303]

Mr Prisk: Collaboration between the UK and Israel in the area of science and technology is a priority for UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) who work closely with the active science and innovation team in the British embassy in Tel Aviv and their principals in the UK.

During his recent visit to Israel, the Foreign Secretary was pleased to announce that 10 new Israeli-British research partnerships are to be funded through the Britain Israel Research and Academic Exchange Partnership (BIRAX). In addition, he announced the establishment of a new high level UK-Israel Life Sciences Council.

Local Enterprise Partnerships

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the likely effects on areas with high levels of public sector employment of not being within the geographical scope of a local enterprise partnership; and if he will make a statement. [24917]

Mr Prisk: Decisions have yet to be taken on where departmental cuts will be made and therefore the geographical impacts on public sector employment are not known. In addition, the local enterprise partnership map is not set in aspic. Discussions are still ongoing with prospective partnerships and we anticipate more to be invited to form their boards in the future.

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the potential involvement of community or voluntary sector organisations in the operation of local enterprise partnerships. [25190]

Mr Prisk: Local enterprise partnerships are locally developed organisations formed between local authorities and businesses. These partnerships have been encouraged to work closely with key economic stakeholders including social and community enterprises.

Local Enterprise Partnerships: North East

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of the North East region is currently covered by a Local Enterprise Partnership. [24971]

Mr Prisk: We anticipate full coverage in the north-east. The Tees Valley partnership has already been invited to develop their board and the other partnerships in the north-east who put forward outline proposals have agreed to work together to form a single partnership; we are currently waiting for this new proposal to be submitted.

Local Enterprise Partnerships: North Yorkshire

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress has been made on the selection of a local enterprise partnership for North Yorkshire. [25434]

Mr Prisk: The Government set out their expectations for local enterprise partnerships in the Local Growth White Paper. All partnerships that submitted initial outline proposals which did not meet our expectations were invited to reconsider them in light of these expectations and then resubmit, working with other partners as appropriate.

New Businesses: Females

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what schemes his Department *(a)* operates and *(b)* plans to operate to provide assistance to women to set up their own businesses; and if he will make a statement. [24571]

Mr Prisk: A number of measures are being undertaken with the purpose of stimulating growth which are particularly targeting support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). These will assist women with setting up in business or help with improving the businesses already set up by women.

As the regional development agencies are decommissioned, I will introduce a new and flexible delivery system which will include a national website, a national contact centre and access to mentors which should help SMEs to grow. I also intend to establish a network of growth hubs in England to support businesses with high growth potential.

The Government will provide highly focused support to SMEs through a renewed and streamlined portfolio of business improvement products through Solutions for Business to be launched by this Department by April 2011.

We are establishing Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) as set out in the White Paper on Local Growth. This will involve local business and civic leaders working together to drive economic growth and create new jobs in their communities.

Overseas Trade: Asia

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills by what mechanisms UK Trade and Investment is encouraging British businesses to trade in emerging economies in Asia. [25415]

Mr Prisk: Encouraging British business to trade with the emerging economies in Asia is a priority for the Government led by my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister, as seen through his visits to India and China. UK Trade and Investment has teams in all the major Asia economies which are tasked with drawing business opportunities to the attention of UK businesses and then helping them succeed internationally. UK Trade and Investment has a full programme of sectorally focused activity linked to Asian markets which, at its core, puts UK business in a position to trade successfully. Finally, the Asia Task Force, co-chaired by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, and the noble Lord Powell of Bayswater, has been running since 2009 a programme of outreach activity which, by the end of this year, will have encouraged more than 2000 businesses in the UK to look at business opportunities in Asia.

Post Office: Royal Mail

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the merits of an inter-business arrangement between Post Office Ltd and Royal Mail following implementation of provisions of the Postal Services Bill. [24916]

Mr Davey: The Government are clear that Post Office Ltd and Royal Mail will remain closely entwined in operational terms and will continue to rely on one another after the separation of the businesses provided for in the Postal Services Bill. While the commercial terms of such a relationship will be a matter for Post Office Ltd and Royal Mail to agree, the Government believe that it is in the best interests of both companies for there to be a long-term commercial contract in place between them going forward.

Post Offices

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether criteria have been agreed between his Department and Post Office Ltd to determine the appropriateness of the Post Office local model for sub-post offices; and whether the model will apply to sub-post offices with no additional retail business. [24915]

Mr Davey: The Post Office Ltd is currently conducting pilot trials of the Post Office local model in some 50 locations, with analysis of the trials shared regularly with officials in this Department. The trials will enable any necessary fine tuning of the model to be made in the light of practical, operational experience. The Post Office local model is structured to work alongside a complementary retail activity and will not apply in circumstances where there is no additional retail business.

Postal Services: Local Government

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what *(a)* guidance and *(b)* support his Department provides to local authorities (i) to support greater involvement by those authorities in the planning and delivery of Post Office provision and (ii) on outsourcing of council services and functions to the Post Office network. [25018]

Mr Davey: The Government are keen to explore the scope for greater local authority involvement in the planning and delivery of local post office provision and for better local authority use of post offices as a delivery channel for council services. Post Office Ltd and Sheffield city council have agreed on a pilot partnership which will also include sub-postmasters and local people to develop a sustainable local network.

Postal Services: Northern Ireland

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with Ministers in the Northern Ireland Executive on the effects in Northern Ireland of the privatisation of Royal Mail. [25290]

Mr Davey: The Government are committed to maintaining the universal postal service in all parts of the UK. To achieve this, Royal Mail's future has to be secured on a sustainable basis and we believe that the best way to do this is through an injection of private sector capital and disciplines and for the company to operate within a robust regulatory framework, which has the continuation of the universal postal service at its heart.

Postal services are a reserved matter but this Department fully briefed the devolved Administrations on the content of the Bill before it was published. We also discussed specific drafting points relating to provisions the Bill.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effects in Northern Ireland of the privatisation of Royal Mail. [25291]

Mr Davey: The Government are committed to maintaining the universal postal service in all parts of the UK. To achieve this, Royal Mail's future has to be secured on a sustainable basis and we believe that the best way to do this is through an injection of private sector capital and disciplines and for the company to operate within a robust regulatory framework, which has the continuation of the universal postal service at its heart.

Supermarkets: Competition

Mr Spencer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for a supermarket ombudsman. [24744]

Mr Davey: The coalition agreement commits the Government to introduce the Groceries Code Adjudicator (GCA). A consultation on the GCA took place between 5 February and 30 April 2010. The Government response of 3 August set out how we would take this body forward.

We now have approval to publish a draft Bill in the first session of this Parliament however it is too early to know whether the Bill could be introduced this session or the next. We will work closely with business managers to reach an agreement.

UK Trade and Investment

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills by what mechanisms UK Trade and Investment works with FTSE 100 companies; and how many staff of his Department are employed to undertake such work. [25410]

Mr Prisk: UK Trade and Investment currently has approximately 40 dedicated relationship managers assigned to work with FTSE 100 companies. In addition, UK Trade and Investment staff maintain regular contact with FTSE 100 companies in the course of day to day work both in the UK and overseas.

Yorkshire Forward: Redundancy Pay

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much *(a)* has been spent on and *(b)* is planned to be spent on redundancy payments for employees of Yorkshire Forward. [25436]

Mr Prisk: In the 12 months ending October 2010, Yorkshire Forward spent £2,953,793 on redundancy payments to employees. It is not yet possible to estimate future redundancy costs firmly because decisions on staff transfers to successor bodies have still to be settled and other factors will apply including the level of staff departures occurring through other reasons such as resignation. The impact of the Superannuation Bill and the timing of the implementation of the interim measures and the new negotiated terms will also have an affect on the cost of redundancies at Yorkshire Forward.

PRIME MINISTER

China: Human Rights

Mr Winnick: To ask the Prime Minister what representations he made to his Chinese counterpart on the issue of human rights in China at their most recent meeting; what response he received; and what further representations he plans to make. [23224]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the speech I gave at Beida University in Beijing on Wednesday 10 November 2010. A transcript of this is available on the Number 10 website and can be found at

http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/speeches-and-transcripts/2010/11/pms-speech-at-beida-university-china-56820

I also refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 15 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 650.

Economic Policy: EU Action

Mr Carswell: To ask the Prime Minister whether the European Court of Justice would adjudicate in circumstances in which the extent to which the EU was able to legislate in respect of budgets and macro-economic surveillance of member states under the proposals in the Report of the Task Force to the European Council on Strengthening Economic Governance in the EU is disputed. [22283]

Justine Greening: I have been asked to reply.

The UK's Protocol to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union contains certain provisions that preclude the application to the UK of sanctions under Article 126(11) of the Treaty. This exemption from sanctions is explicitly recognised in paragraph 18.ii of the final report of the President of the European Council's Taskforce (a copy of this document has been deposited in the Library of the House).

The European Commission has now published legislative proposals which would create additional sanctions to encourage compliance by member states with both the

EU's Stability and Growth Pact and its Broad Economic Policy Guidelines. However, these relate only to euro area member states and thus would not apply to the UK.

The "EU Semester" would require member states to submit their draft budgetary plans to the EU each spring. The Chancellor secured an exemption from this in the EU Stability and Growth Pact Code of Conduct, which explicitly states that the UK will send its final Budget to the EU after it has been presented to Parliament.

The EU has conducted fiscal and macroeconomic surveillance of its member states for many years under the Stability and Growth Pact and the Broad Economic Policy Guidelines. Many of the Commission and Taskforce proposals formalise this monitoring and are based on existing provisions of the Treaty under Articles 121 and 126.3-126.8. These articles apply to all member states and any proposals made under these Articles, if adopted, would apply to the UK.

The Commission's proposals will be considered by the Council and by the European Parliament in due course. They have been submitted to both Houses of Parliament for scrutiny in the usual way.

Once legislation has been adopted it is open to any one of the EU institutions or to a member state to bring the matter before the European Court of Justice in accordance with Article 263 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the merits of regulating the price of alcohol for the purpose of reducing alcohol consumption; and if he will make a statement. [24826]

Anne Milton: The Government are currently reviewing alcohol taxation and pricing to ensure they tackle binge drinking without unfairly penalising responsible drinkers, pubs and important local industries. We also intend to ban the sale of alcohol below cost price.

Although the price of alcohol is important, it is not the only factor that affects demand for alcohol. Solutions to address alcohol-related problems will need also to be found locally, and by seeking to change individuals' relationship and behaviours with alcohol.

Carers: Voluntary Organisations

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the potential annual saving to the public purse of the provision of support for carers by voluntary organisations. [24449]

Paul Burstow: No assessment has been made of the potential annual saving to the public purse of the provision of support for carers by voluntary organisations.

Dementia

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many primary care trusts published implementation plans for the National Dementia Strategy for England in the latest period for which figures are available. [24435]

Anne Milton: The Department does not collect data on how many primary care trusts have published implementation plans for the National Dementia Strategy for England. We are in the process of establishing the provision of dementia services across the country via a national audit. The first results from this are expected at the end of the year.

The Department has made clear that national health service (NHS) organisations should be working with partners to implement the National Dementia Strategy. Localities are asked to provide information that helps those with dementia and their families understand their local services, and the level of quality and outcomes that they can expect. The NHS and their partners should publish how they are implementing the National Dementia Strategy to increase local accountability for prioritisation. This is to support a move away from central command to local determination and as such primary care trusts will not be subject to requirements on how or what they publish, neither will there be any national performance requirements put to them.

Departmental Press: Subscriptions

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health to which local newspapers his Department had a subscription between June 2007 and May 2010; on what date each such subscription started; and what the cost to the public purse was of such subscriptions. [24427]

Anne Milton: The following table shows the cost of local newspapers purchased for the Department on a regular basis during the period June 2007 to May 2010:

Title	*Cost (£)*
Yorkshire Post	583
Yorkshire Evening Post	56
Evening Standard	8,866
Birmingham Post	91
Manchester Evening News	423
Western Morning News	348
Total	10,367

Notes:

1. Subscription commencement dates are not available as the Department purchases newspapers on a month by month basis to allow for any weekly demands or changes.

2. This covers titles purchased by the Library only. Information is not held centrally on items purchased by individual business units.

Departmental Reviews

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what departmental policy reviews his Department has undertaken since his appointment; on what date each such review *(a)* was announced and *(b)* is expected to publish its findings; what estimate he has made of the cost of each such review; who has been appointed to lead each such review; to what remuneration each review leader is entitled; how many (i) full-time equivalent civil servants and (ii) seconded staff are working on each such review; from which organisations such staff have been seconded; and how much on average such seconded staff will be paid for their work on the review. [21881]

Paul Burstow: Details of all Department of Health policy reviews since May 2010 are set out in the following table:

Subject	*Date review announced*	*Anticipated date of report/date of report*	*Appointed reviewer*	*Number of civil servants working on the review (full-time equivalents)*
Review of arm's length bodies	20 May 2010	26 July 2010	Led internally by Department of Health	9-10
Review of the cancer reform strategy	7 July 2010	Winter 2010	Professor Sir Mike Richards, National Clinical Director of cancer and end of life care	1
An independent palliative care funding review	9 July 2010	Summer 2011	Tom Hughes-Hallett, Chief Executive of Marie Curie Cancer Care	1
Review of data returns	12 July 2010	Early 2011	National Quality Board	1.5
The review of the funding system for care and support in England	20 July 2010	July 2011	Andrew Dilnot, Chair, Commission on the Funding of Care and Support	10
Review of the NHS Litigation Authority	26 July 2010	Spring 2011	Led internally by Department of Health	1
Commercial review of NHS Blood and Transplant	26 July 2010	Spring 2011	Led internally by Department of Health	0.3
Commercial review of the NHS Business Services Authority	26 July 2010	Spring 2011	Led internally by Department of Health	1
Review of the Office of the Health Professions Adjudicator	9 August 2010	Late November 2010	Led internally by Department of Health	1.5
Review of consultant pay rewards scheme	20 August 2010	July 2011	Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration	0.2
Review of early warning systems in the NHS (reopening of previous National Quality Board review)	10 September 2010	Phase1: January/ February 2011; Phase 2: mid 2011	National Quality Board	0.5

Notes:
1. Information on the estimated cost of each review has not been calculated because this work is carried out as part of the normal business of the Department of Health and other organisations.
2. Individuals recruited externally to chair reviews have been appointed in an advisory capacity and are not salaried staff.
3. None of the external chairs have received remuneration.
4. Professor Sir Alan Craft is advisor to the Palliative Care Funding Review and will receive up to £60,000 for this work.
5. Where reviews were led by Department of Health staff, they were recruited from within the Department and were not entitled to further payments for their work in addition to their normal salary.
6. No staff have been seconded to the Department of Health to work specifically on the reviews.

Drugs: Misuse

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what treatment services are available on the NHS for people with a dependency on *(a)* heroin, *(b)* crack cocaine and *(c)* cocaine powder; and what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of each such treatment. [24843]

Anne Milton: The national health service provides a range of services in various settings to treat drug dependence, tailored to the individual, their drug(s) of dependence, and their personal circumstances.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has reviewed the evidence for the effectiveness of a range of drug treatment interventions, and published guidance which includes: methadone and buprenorphine for managing opioid dependence, naltrexone for the management of opioid dependence, opioid detoxification, and drug misuse psychosocial interventions.

Further guidance on the range of treatments available is set out in "Drug misuse and dependence, UK guidelines on clinical management" published by the United Kingdom health departments in 2007. A copy has already been placed in the Library.

In addition, the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA) published "Models of Care for Treatment of Adult Drug Misusers", a framework for the commissioning and provision of drug treatment services in England, last updated in 2006. Once the Government's Drug Strategy has been published, the NTA will consult on the development of a new recovery-oriented framework with the aim of promoting an ambition for recovery that meets the needs of all addicts and their families, both those currently in treatment and those yet to be engaged.

Myasthenia Gravis Association

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to assist the work of the Myasthenia Gravis Association. [24484]

Paul Burstow: The National Service Framework (NSF) for Long-Term Conditions was developed to address variations in access and the quality of care for people with long-term neurological and neuromuscular conditions, including myasthenia gravis.

While it is the responsibility of local health commissioners to ensure that they commission local services to meet the needs of their populations, commissioning decisions that reflect the vision of the NSF will ensure that services meet the needs of people with myasthenia gravis.

In future, outcomes, which the national health service will be expected to achieve, will be set through the NHS Outcomes Framework. The NHS Commissioning Board will hold general practitioner commissioning consortia to account for delivery through the framework.

Under our proposed health reforms, voluntary sector organisations such as the Myasthenia Gravis Association will have valuable expertise and experience to contribute to improve local services. Voluntary organisations could potentially strengthen the process of public and patient engagement and support commissioners in developing needs assessments and commissioning guidelines.

NHS

Dr Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the statutory duties are of *(a)* primary care trusts and *(b)* strategic health authorities. [24200]

Paul Burstow: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 18 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 580-81W.

NHS: Finance

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding his Department plans to provide to GPs who are seeking to redevelop their practice buildings following the abolition of primary care trusts; and whether GP practices which fund redevelopment of practice buildings by a bank loan will continue to be able to rent. [24109]

Paul Burstow: The arrangements for reimbursing premises costs for providers of general medical services are set out in The National Health Service (General Medical Services—Premises Costs) (England) Directions 2004. This document has already been placed in the Library. The proposal for an independent NHS Commissioning Board to have future responsibility for commissioning general medical services would not alter these arrangements.

NHS: Public Participation

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 400W, on NHS: public participation, whether funding will be made available to ensure that LINk activities can continue between the end of March 2011 and the establishment of HealthWatch in April 2012. [24672]

Paul Burstow: Following the spending review, details of the overall local government settlement were set out in the letter from my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on 20 October 2010, a copy of which is available on their website at:

www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/1745945.pdf

This letter set out the profile of grants that are rolling into the local government formula grant from 2011-12. This includes the Department of Health's ongoing personal social services grants, including funding for local involvement networks.

Pathogens: Climate Change

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has made an assessment of the potential effects on human health of new and emerging pathogens related to climate change. [24664]

Anne Milton: The Department and the Health Protection Agency jointly published its assessment of the possible impacts of climate change on health in the report 'Health Effects of Climate Change in the UK 2008'. This included an assessment of potential effects of new and emerging infections. A copy has already been placed in the Library.

Further to this, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is undertaking a national Climate Change Risk Assessment, as required by the Climate Change Act 2008. Potential risks from new and emerging pathogens on human health will be considered as part of that wider assessment.

Additionally, the Department's National Expert Panel on New and Emerging Infections keeps the risks to public health from such threats under constant review.

Physiology: Regulation

Dr Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the proposals of the NHS White Paper, Equity and Excellence: liberating the NHS, on the timescale for statutory regulation of clinical physiologists. [24688]

Anne Milton: Ministers are currently considering, within the context of the Government's wider health strategy, whether to regulate health care scientists, including clinical physiologists, and how it might be done.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to support dispensing surgeries in ensuring fair pricing for prescription medicines. [24111]

Paul Burstow: Following a recent cost of service inquiry carried out in conjunction with the Dispensing Doctors Association and the General Practitioners Committee of the British Medical Association, discussions will now be taking place with the profession over future arrangements to secure best value from national health service investment in general practice.

The latest earnings data from the NHS Information Centre, published on 15 September, show that for 2008-09 dispensing general practitioners (GPs) in England earned an average net income of £123,800, almost £17,900 higher than the average net income of a non-dispensing GP. Overall, dispensing surgeries therefore appear to be profitable.

Written Answers to Questions

Friday 19 November 2010

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

House of Commons: Housing

Lorely Burt: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission, what recent estimate the House of Commons Commission has made of the *(a)* capital and *(b)* rental value of the accommodation owned by the House Service at (i) 2 Parliament Street, (ii) 3 Parliament Street, (iii) 2a Canon Row, (iv) 2b Canon Row, (v) 4 Canon Row, (vi) 102 Rochester Row and (vii) 22 John Islip Street. [23409]

Sir Stuart Bell: The capital valuation, using International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), for properties on the estate prepared by the Valuation Office Agency in October 2010 was:

Property	*Value (£000)*
2 Parliament Street[1]	2,300
3 Parliament Street[1]	2,800
2a Canon Row[1]	780
2b Canon Row[1]	610
4 Canon Row[1]	1,900
102 Rochester Row[2]	540
22 John Islip Street[1]	600

[1] Freehold

[2] Leasehold, estimated capital value

The ground rent and service charge on 102 Rochester Row is £6,686—the rental value cannot be separated. The House does not presently hold market rental values for any of the above properties.

Lorely Burt: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission, what the running costs of each of the residences provided for officials of the House of Commons Service were in the most recent year for which figures are available. [23460]

Sir Stuart Bell: The running costs allocated to each of the residences provided for officials of the House of Commons Service for 2009-10 were: 2 Parliament Street, £6,646; 3 Parliament Street, £7,817; 2a Canon Row and 2b Canon Row, £3,835; 4 Canon Row, £14,192; and a flat at 102 Rochester Row, £13,215. In all these cases running costs include maintenance, council tax and TV licence; in the case of Rochester Row they also include rent and service charges, utility charges and parking. The costs of 2a and 2b Canon Row cannot be separated. The cost of items aggregated with other properties on the estate, such as major infrastructure costs, are not included.

Motions: Audio Recordings

Mr Amess: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission, pursuant to the answer of 28 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 353-4, on motions, what progress the House of Commons Commission has made on placing on the Parliamentary website a sound recording of the debate held on a motion of no confidence in the Government on 28 March 1979; and if he will make a statement. [25000]

Sir Stuart Bell: A site for the recording has been identified on the Living Heritage pages of the parliamentary website. The remaining work is to edit seven hours of recording down to a maximum of 15 minutes to create content suitable for website users. This work is in hand.

Recycling

Andrew Selous: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission, what procedures are in place for the separation and recycling of waste from offices on the parliamentary estate. [25472]

Sir Stuart Bell: Many waste materials from offices on the parliamentary estate are separated and recycled, including cardboard, paper, glass, metal, light fittings, fluorescent and sodium lamps, glass, plastic drinks bottles and drinks cans, unwanted office files and binders, printer and photocopier toner cartridges, batteries, television monitors, refrigerators, small electronic equipment and computer hardware.

Most of these are collected in recycling bins located across the parliamentary estate. The waste contractor for the House provides a recycling operative on the estate to further separate the waste collected from inside the buildings, since some waste which has been contaminated with other waste cannot be sent for recycling and has to be incinerated instead. This system has increased the quantity of waste sent for recycling and decreased the quantity of waste sent for incineration. Separate compactors for paper for recycling and other waste for incineration are provided in both Peers' Inner Court and Commissioner's Yard.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Departmental Internet

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Attorney-General if he will publish on the No. 10 Downing Street Transparency microsite details of Ministerial and special adviser meetings, hospitality, gifts and overseas travel in respect of the Law Officers' Departments. [25218]

The Solicitor-General: The latest available details of ministerial meetings, hospitality, gifts and overseas travel for the Law Officers have been made available on the AGO website at:

http://www.attorneygeneral.gov.uk/GuidetoInformation/Listsandregisters/Pages/default.aspx

This information has also been supplied to the Cabinet Office for central publication.

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Attorney-General if he will *(a)* publish a business plan for the Law Officers' Departments and *(b)* make that plan available on the No. 10 Downing Street Transparency microsite. [25219]

The Solicitor-General: The information requested is as follows.

(a) Departmental business plans as launched on 8 November 2010 are designed to be high-level documents which provide key milestones for the fundamental structural reforms being undertaken in a Department, as set out in the coalition programme for government. Where there are currently no plans to undertake major structural reforms, such as for the Law Officer's Departments, no formal requirements have been made to create a business plan.

Arrangements for annual reporting to Parliament on departmental performance are still under consideration by Ministers. Further information will be provided in due course.

The Law Officers' Departments have internal business plans and consideration is being given to the most appropriate form for publication.

(b) Where the Law Officers' Departments are required to comply with the Prime Minister's letter of 29 May 2010 to Cabinet Ministers with regard to transparency, the information is made available for all members of the public to see on the departmental website(s). Information has also been provided to Cabinet Office for central publication.

TRANSPORT

Conwy Valley Railway Line

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has had discussions with Welsh Assembly Government Ministers on the upgrading of the Conwy Valley railway line to Route Availability 10. [25194]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport Ministers have not discussed this subject with the Welsh Assembly Government. Our high level output specification and the comprehensive spending review announcement set the overall context for spending on the railway in England and Wales.

Crossrail Line

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the expected date is for the completion of Crossrail. [24459]

Mrs Villiers: The central tunnel section of Crossrail is expected to be complete in 2018 and we expect that phased introduction of Crossrail services will commence from 2018.

Office of Rail Regulation: Freight

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for *(a)* the Office of Rail Regulation and *(b)* its duties in relation to freight lines. [23382]

Mrs Villiers: The Government are committed to ensuring that the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) becomes a passenger champion. We are discussing how best to take this forward with the ORR. We also fully recognise the importance of the work of the ORR in relation to freight. Holding Network Rail to account with regard to the quality of service it provides to freight operators is a key part of the remit of the ORR. In assessing the best options for reform of the rail industry and its regulatory structure, the Government will pay proper regard to the impact of any change on efforts to create the right climate for a successful rail freight industry.

Office of Rail Regulation: Network Rail

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what mechanisms he has put in place to ensure that the Office of Rail Regulation undertakes its functions in respect of Network Rail *(a)* efficiently and *(b)* in a way that meets the needs of its users. [23514]

Mrs Villiers: The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) is independent of Government and conducts its activities in accordance with its statutory functions and duties under relevant legislation, principally the Railways Act 1993 (as amended) and the Railways Act 2005.

The Government are committed to making Network Rail more accountable to its customers and to that end the Department for Transport is working with the Office of Rail Regulation to consider the options for reform. A further announcement on this work will be made in due course.

Railways: Bexley

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of people in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and *(b)* the London borough of Bexley who have a 16 to 25 rail card. [24765]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport does not hold information about the number of people who hold 16 to 25 rail cards and has made no estimation of the numbers of holders in either the Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency or the London borough of Bexley.

Railways: South West

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to upgrade rail infrastructure in the South West. [24063]

Mrs Villiers: Annex E of the Office of Rail Regulation's determination of funding for control period 4 lists the enhancements that will be made to the railway between April 2009 and March 2014. However, this information is not broken down by region. The determination document can be found online at:

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/upload/pdf/383.pdf

My hon. Friend may wish to contact Network Rail's acting chief executive at the following address for more detailed information on the planned programme of improvements:

Peter Henderson
Acting Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London, N1 9AG.

A further announcement about other specific rail improvements will be made shortly.

Railways: Wales

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if he will take steps to ensure the Office of Rail Regulation regulates the maintenance of all railway lines in Wales, including diversionary and other routes used for carrying freight, to the Route Availability stated in the Sectional Appendix; and if he will make a statement; [25193]

(2) if he will take steps to ensure that the Office of Rail Regulation ensure that Network Rail maintains the Conwy Valley railway line to Route Availability 7 as stated in the Sectional Appendix. [25195]

Mrs Villiers: The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) is independent of Government and conducts its activities in accordance with its statutory functions and duties. This includes holding Network Rail to account for delivering its obligations under its network licence. The network licence requires Network Rail, among other things, to manage the railway network so as to satisfy the reasonable requirements of operators and funders, both current and potential.

Maintenance of the railway is governed by robust processes, which provide safeguards for industry stakeholders. The ORR sets a baseline for the capability of the network and Periodic Review determinations ensure that Network Rail is funded to operate, maintain and renew the network to that capability. However, this does not preclude changes to the capability of the network being made in accordance with agreed industry procedures where this is considered appropriate.

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Mass Media

Helen Jones: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what meetings members of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) staff have had with representatives of press and media organisations since IPSA's inception; on what date each such meeting was held; where each such meeting was held; and what the names were of those who attended each such meeting. [22339]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald:

As Interim Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what meetings members of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) staff have held with representatives of press and media organisations since IPSA's inception; on what date each such meeting was held; where each such meeting was held; and what the names were of those who attended each such meeting. (22339)

In the course of their work, IPSA staff have meetings and conversations with a wide range of people, including from time to time with members of press and media organisations. Disclosure of details of such meetings would, in my view, inhibit free and frank discussions.

Members: Pay

Helen Jones: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, how many staff of hon. Members have *(a)* not received salaries to which they are entitled and *(b)* received less than their full salary from the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority in each month since May 2010. [21924]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald:

As Interim Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many staff of hon. Members have (a) not received salaries to which they are entitled and (b) received less than their full salary from the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority in each month since May 2010.

We are not aware of members of MPs' staff not receiving either their full salary with a matching payslip, or an advance payment to cover any missing salary or significant underpayments.

The table below shows the number of advances made and the reasons why the employee was underpaid or did not receive a payslip. The table also shows the number of salaries paid in each month to provide some context.

			Reason for advance			
Month	*Number of salaries paid*	*Number of advances*	*Incomplete information received from MP*	*Information received post-payroll cut off date*	*Administrative error by IPSA*	*Not stated*
May	802	2	1	—	—	1
June	2,897	104	48	45	10	1
July	3,000	27	12	11	3	1
August	3,147	8	4	2	2	—
September	3,215	16	8	1	2	5
October	3,246	6	2	4	—	—
November	[1]—	4	—	2	2	
Total	16,397	167	75	65	19	8

[1] Payroll yet to run.

EDUCATION

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to reply to the letter of 9 September 2010 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Miss G Persse, transferred from the Department for Work and Pensions. [19860]

Tim Loughton: My noble Friend Lord Hill of Oareford replied in a letter dated 24 October 2010.

Schools: Finance

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools have been supported by Youth Sport Trust funding in each of the last three years. [20167]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 28 October 2010]:* The Youth Sport Trust does not fund schools directly. The Department has paid grant to the network of school sport partnerships since 2003. All primary, secondary and special schools have been part of this network since 2006 and have benefited from this support. While the network helped schools to increase participation rates in the areas targeted by the previous Government, the fact remains that the proportion of pupils playing competitive sport regularly has remained disappointingly low. Only around two in every five pupils play competitive sport regularly within their own school, and only one in five plays regularly against others schools. In removing the many PE and sport targets and requirements placed on schools by the previous Government, we are freeing them to take decisions about the competitive sport that they offer in the best interests of the pupils and parents they serve.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Housing

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects all family accommodation to be fully modernised. [25164]

Mr Robathan: We place a high priority on the welfare of Service personnel and their families and will therefore look to modernise as much accommodation as possible from efficiencies found within the Ministry of Defence, subject to wider Defence needs.

Armed Forces: Private Education

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Edinburgh West of 10 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 391W, on armed forces: private education, how many service personnel of each rank received financial assistance from his Department through the continuity of education allowance scheme in 2009-10; and what the monetary value was of such assistance provided to service personnel of each rank in that year. [24636]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 17 November 2010]:* Continuity of education allowance (CEA) provides an important means of supporting accompanied service. However this allowance, along with all service allowances, is currently under review in order to ensure value for money.

The number of service personnel identified by Army rank or equivalent and the associated payments of CEA in financial year 2009-10 is provided in the following table:

Army rank or equivalent	*Number of service personnel receiving CEA in FY 2009-10*	*Cost of CEA in FY 2009-10 (£ million)*
Lt/2nd Lt	10	0.2
Capt	640	11.8
Maj	1,000	19.9
Lt Col	1.120	25.3
Col	480	10.6
Brig	160	3.6
Maj Gen	40	0.7
Lt Gen	10	0.1
Gen	[1]—	[2]—
Pte (Class 1-3)	70	0.9
L/Cpl	50	0.7
Cpl	360	5.0
Sgt	680	10.2
S/Sgt	680	10.7
WO2	470	7.2
WO1	260	4.4
Grand total	6,020	111.3

[1]— Denotes fewer than five

[2]— Denotes less than £0.5 million (£50,000)

Notes:

1. Where personnel have been promoted during a financial year, only their most senior rank has been counted.
2. The number of claimants is rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Rounding has been applied to all figures. When rounding to the nearest 10, numbers ending in five have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias. Totals have been rounded separately and therefore may not equal the sum of their rounded parts.

In addition, as elements of CEA are subject to a pay as you earn settlement agreement with Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, the Ministry of Defence also paid £66 million for tax and national insurance following the grossing up of the allowance.

Departmental Allowances

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how long on average he spends managing expenses and allowances claims; and if he will make a statement. [24518]

Dr Fox: My ministerial colleagues and I follow the Ministry of Defence's Policy, Rules and Guidance on expenses and allowances in the course of our official duties. However, the information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Regulation

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what regulations sponsored by his Department have been revoked in the last six months. [24384]

Mr Robathan: In the last six months, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) has not revoked any regulatory measures. However, we are currently reviewing our secondary legislation in two areas. Firstly, regulations governing the Service Pensions and Compensation Schemes are reviewed annually and updated where necessary. Also being reviewed are existing Defence byelaws and other local instruments in relation to land occupied for Defence purposes.

Although regulations made by the MOD rarely impact on business, our reviews are being conducted with a view to rationalise the regulatory burden within these policy areas.

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what new regulations sponsored by his Department have been introduced through *(a)* primary legislation and *(b)* statutory instrument in the last six months. [24499]

Mr Robathan: In the last six months, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) has not introduced any regulations through primary legislation. During this period, one general statutory instrument has been introduced to update the armed forces' and reserve forces' compensation scheme.

The MOD has also introduced one local instrument in the last six months as part of our long-standing project to update existing Defence byelaws, and two further local instruments relating to members of the reserve forces in the Isle of Man.

Met Office

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if his Department will assess the merits of offering a public tender for its meteorological services contract held by the Met Office. [25284]

Mr Robathan: A review of the Met Office will be undertaken which will consider, among other options, different contracting opportunities for the meteorological services. It will report on its findings by the end of March 2011.

RAF Lyneham

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether his Department has carried out a feasibility study into accommodating at RAF Lyneham service personnel and their families currently stationed in Germany; [25322]

(2) whether he has estimated the cost of converting RAF Lyneham into a base for service personnel and their families currently stationed in Germany; [25323]

(3) which locations in the UK he is considering as potential bases for armed forces personnel and their families currently stationed in Germany. [25324]

Nick Harvey: Detailed work is currently being undertaken to identify precisely how the re-basing will be implemented and this work will take into account costs and accommodation issues. It is too early to say where personnel returning from Germany will be based. The possibilities could include parts of the existing defence estate which will be vacated as a result of other strategic defence and security review decisions, but this will be considered as we work through the details.

Rescue Services

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with the Soteria consortium on the demilitarisation of Search and Rescue services in the UK. [25327]

Mr Robathan: The Review of the Search and Rescue-Helicopter project, announced in June 2010, is extensive and looking at all aspects of the procurement. Discussions are taking place with the preferred bidder (Soteria) where necessary. Until the Review is concluded it would be inappropriate to comment on any specific aspects of the Review.

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether his Department has undertaken an impact assessment of the demilitarisation of Search and Rescue services in the UK; [25328]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Transport on the Search and Rescue private finance initiative contract; [25330]

(3) when his Department expects the review of the search and rescue private finance initiative contract to conclude; and if he will make a statement. [25468]

Mr Robathan: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence has discussed the review of Search and Rescue Helicopter (SAR-H) project with the Secretary of State for Transport on a number of occasions. Ministers and officials from both Departments continue to engage.

Until the review of the SAR-H project is concluded it would be inappropriate to comment on any specific aspects of the Review. I expect this to happen in the near future, when an announcement on the way forward will be made.

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Royal Navy, *(b)* RAF, *(c)* HM Coastguard and *(d)* civilian personnel are employed in roles related to search and rescue activities. [25329]

Mr Robathan: The number of personnel currently employed in roles directly related to search and rescue activities in each of the four categories are listed in the following table:

	Number
Royal Navy	81
RAF	272
Maritime Coastguard Agency	491
Civilians (employed by MOD)	384

The figures exclude Royal Navy, RAF, Maritime Coastguard Agency and civilian personnel who are employed in roles which indirectly support search and rescue activities but which also carry out non-search and rescue tasks. The figures also exclude volunteers who support search and rescue activities.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts: Education

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussion he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on the withdrawal of teaching support funding from arts degree courses. [25178]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: I regularly meet with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovations and Skills to discuss cross-departmental issues.

Arts: Finance

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on the effects on arts and culture funding of the abolition of regional development agencies prior to the announcement of the outcomes of the Comprehensive Spending Review. [25180]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: I regularly meet with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovations and Skills to discuss cross-departmental issues.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the effects on arts and culture funding of cuts to local authority grants prior to the announcement of the outcomes of the Comprehensive Spending Review. [25181]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: I regularly meet with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to discuss cross-departmental issues.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the funding provided by each local authority for arts and cultural organisations and activities in the last five years. [25182]

Mr Vaizey: This Department does not collate each local authority's funding for arts and cultural authority. Annual data of overall local authority expenditure on cultural provision, including arts development and support, are published by the Department for Communities and Local Government. Local Government Financial Statistics England publications are available for the last five years at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localregional/localgovernmentfinance/statistics/

Broadband

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what his most recent estimate is of the cost to the public purse of implementing his proposals for the roll-out of high-speed broadband by 2017. [23668]

Mr Vaizey: The cost to central Government comprises £530 million, allocated in the spending review to support the rollout of broadband, and a further £300 million available from the TV licence fee settlement in the years 2015-16 and 2016-17. We will seek to match these funds with contributions from other public sector bodies where possible although until local delivery models are confirmed we are unable to provide a firm forecast of how much this will amount to.

Departmental Press: Subscriptions

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible spent on press cuttings services in each of the last 12 months. [25494]

John Penrose: The amounts spent by the Department on press cuttings in each of the last 12 months are set out in the table:

Month	*£ (including) VAT*
2009	
November	4,971.71
December	4,206.70
2010	
January	4,573.44
February	4,616.97
March	5,098.15
April	4,096.20
May	3,895.16
June	3,561.71
July	3,932.62
August	4,118.80
September	3,912.98
October	4,193.94

These costs include copyright charges to the Newspaper Licensing Agency paid via our press cuttings service provider.

The Department does not collate this information for its arm's length bodies. Accordingly, I have asked their chief executives to write to the hon. Member for Harwich and North Essex.

Copies of the replies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Departmental Regulation

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what regulations sponsored by his Department have been revoked in the last six months. [24374]

John Penrose: The following statutory instruments sponsored by the Department have been revoked in the last six months:

The Ecclesiastical Exemption (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (England) Order 2010 revoked The Ecclesiastical Exemption (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (England) Order 2004;

The Royal Parks and Other Open Spaces (Amendment) (No. 2) etc. Regulations 2010 revoked The Royal Parks and Other Open Spaces (Amendment) etc. Regulations 2010;

The Welsh Language (Gambling and Licensing Form) Regulations 2010 revoked The Welsh Language (Gambling and Licensing Form) Order 2007.

The first and third instruments are replaced by similar regimes provided for by the revoking instrument. The second instrument revokes provisions permitting charging for parking in Richmond and Bushey parks.

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what new regulations sponsored by his Department have been introduced through *(a)* primary legislation and *(b)* statutory instrument in the last six months. [24489]

John Penrose: The following regulations sponsored by the Department and contained in statutory instruments have been made in the last six months:

The Ecclesiastical Exemption (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (England) (Amendment) Order 2010;

The Olympics, Paralympics and London Olympics Association Rights (Infringement Proceedings) Regulations 2010;

The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport Order 2010;

The Legislative Reform (Licensing) (Interim Authority Notices etc) Order 2010;

The Royal Parks and Other Open Spaces (Amendment) (No.2) etc. Regulations 2010;

The Football Spectators (Seating) Order 2010;

The Safety of Sports Grounds (Designation) Order 2010;

The Safety of Sports Grounds (Designation) (No. 2) Order 2010;

The Safety of Sports Grounds (Designation) (No. 3) Order 2010;

The Audiovisual Media Services (Codification) Regulations 2010;

The Welsh Language (Gambling and Licensing Form) Regulations 2010.

The Department has not sponsored any primary legislation in the last six months.

Youth Sports: Finance

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he had with the Secretary of State for Education on funding for Youth Sport Trust before the announcement of the outcomes of the Comprehensive Spending Review. [25179]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: I regularly meet with the Secretary of State for Education to discuss cross-departmental issues.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Energy: Prices

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what assessment he has made of the compliance of energy suppliers with Ofgem's overarching standards of conduct in respect of the requirement to not supply products that are unnecessarily complex or confusing; and if he will make a statement; [24784]

(2) whether Ofgem has made an assessment of the number of energy products on the market that are deemed unnecessarily complex or confusing under its overarching standards of conduct; and if he will make a statement; [24785]

(3) whether Ofgem makes an assessment of the compliance of new energy products that enter the market with its overarching standards of conduct in respect of the requirement not to supply products that are unnecessarily complex or confusing; and if he will make a statement; [24786]

(4) what measure of *(a)* complexity and *(b)* confusion Ofgem applies in its assessment of the compliance of energy products with the requirement not to be unnecessarily complex or confusing under its overarching standards of conduct; and if he will make a statement. [24787]

Charles Hendry: It is for Ofgem to monitor compliance with its standards of conduct. To meet its principal duty, to protect the interests of consumers, Ofgem actively monitors the activities of licence holders, including compliance with their standards of conduct.

As part of this process Ofgem will review whether changes to the gas and electricity supply licences introduced as part of the energy supply probe have proved sufficient to help consumers understand and benefit from the range of tariffs available to them, and consider what further steps may be needed.

Ofgem has said that if suppliers do not meet the obligations they will consider more formal action.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department monitors the application of *(a)* exit fees in respect of and *(b)* penalties applied to energy suppliers' tariffs; and if he will make a statement. [24994]

Charles Hendry: Ofgem monitors compliance with energy supply licence conditions. To meet its principal duty, to protect the interests of consumers, Ofgem actively monitors the activities of licence holders, including compliance with licence conditions which regulate the circumstances in which termination fees may be charged by suppliers to domestic consumers.

Subject to concurrency arrangements with the OFT, Ofgem also has the power under the Unfair Terms in Consumer Contracts Regulations 1999 to investigate complaints about the fairness of contractual terms (including terms relating to amount of exit/termination fees) used in standard form contracts with domestic consumers.

Wind Power: Planning Permission

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what mechanisms are in place to ensure that local communities are consulted on the location of land-based wind turbines. [22417]

Charles Hendry: The relevant local planning authority "Statement of Community Involvement" will set out the method, scope and timing for consulting communities on applications for significant development, including onshore wind farms up to 50 megawatts installed capacity. Pre-application consultation is good practice. All planning applications have to be advertised for 21 days during which period representations can be made to the local planning authority. However we are currently considering how our planning reforms can best improve the ways in which communities are engaged in planning matters.

Applications for consent for wind farm developments made under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 are required to be advertised in the national and local press and in the London Gazette. A copy of the application, with a plan showing the land to which it relates, together with a copy of the Environmental Statement, explaining the company's proposals in more detail and presenting an analysis of the environmental implications, and a non-technical summary are made available for inspection at locations in the vicinity of the development.

Finally under the Planning Act 2008, on applications for consenting wind farms of over 50 megawatts installed capacity, local communities are consulted at three different points in the process: during the public consultation on National Policy Statements (NPS); during the pre-examination consultation (when the developer consults the local community on its proposals) and during the examination period.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Development: Finance

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what arrangements are in place to ensure that payments for schemes under Community builders programme are available where final invoices are not presented by the end of the financial year; and if he will make a statement. [24791]

Andrew Stunell: All Government Department budgets are set for each financial year and money must be spent by the year end to comply with government accounting requirements. In the past the overall financial position of the Department meant that we were able to offer some flexibility beyond the end of the financial year on disbursement timescales for Communitybuilders. The Government's priority must be to reduce the deficit, and this flexibility is therefore not available at present for new commitments. We are working closely with our delivery partner to consider ways of maximising the fund's potential.

JUSTICE

Church Commissioners

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons the Church Commissioners have not been designated as a public body subject to provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [25401]

Mr Djanogly: The Church Commissioners are not subject to the Freedom of Information Act because they do not perform a public function. Rather, their duties relates to the administration of the Church.

Refugee and Migrant Justice

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assistance he provides to survivors of torture entering the UK from abroad following the ending of funding for the service provided by Refugee and Migrant Justice. [25470]

Mr Djanogly: The most important issue after Refugee and Migrant Justice (RMJ) decided to enter into administration was the arrangements for its clients. The Legal Services Commission (LSC) worked with the administrators of RMJ to transfer live cases to new legal aid providers.

I understand that all files were transferred or, if further work was unnecessary, closed by 13 August. All of those new providers are required to meet the same high standards, including an accreditation scheme for all advisers and supervisors and a quality assurance system.

So far as the longer term is concerned, the LSC recently ran a tender round for delivering asylum and immigration services under new contracts. An increased number of offices applied to do the work and bid for more than double the amount of cases available. Those contracts commenced on 15 November.

HEALTH

Dental Services

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms will be put in place to ensure that the dental expertise of primary care trust commissioning staff is preserved during the proposed reconfiguration of the NHS following the publication of the White Paper Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS. [24611]

Anne Milton: Work is already under way to plan the transition from the current commissioning arrangements to those proposed in our White Paper, "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS". We are committed to introducing a new national dental contract based on registration, capitation and quality, which we are developing in consultation with representatives of patients, the dental profession and national health service managers, and which we will pilot. We will publish in December our proposals for pilots, and as part of the development work, will assess the resources and skills required for commissioning dental services under the new contract.

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had on the commissioning of *(a)* salaried primary care dental services and *(b)* secondary dental care. [24612]

Anne Milton: Ministers and departmental officials have had wide-ranging discussions, including meetings, at which the commissioning of these services was discussed, with the British Dental Association and representatives of the dental schools, dental hospitals and the salaried dental services.

Dental Services: Fees and Charges

Dr Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 21 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 844W, on dental services: fees and charges, with whom Monitor will be expected to work collaboratively in setting price levels for the benefit of patients and taxpayers. [24687]

Anne Milton: We have consulted on proposals for Monitor and the NHS Commissioning Board to work collaboratively in setting prices for national health service services and we intend to bring forward legislation in this parliamentary session. We are not in a position to provide further details at this stage.

Drugs: Misuse

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the proposed payment by outcomes approach in respect of drug treatment and rehabilitation. [25449]

Anne Milton: Officials in the Department, along with cross-Government colleagues, are currently in the process of developing plans to pilot for improved recovery outcomes in the treatment of drug dependence. Further details will be announced as part of the drug strategy, which is due for publication in December.

NHS: Finance

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans he has for the proportion of the contract value linked to the Commissioning for Quality and Innovation payment framework for providers of acute services in 2011-12; [24698]

(2) what plans he has for the proportion of the financial value of the NHS Commissioning for Quality and Innovation payment framework which is linked to nationally-defined goals in 2011-12. [24706]

Anne Milton: The scope and value of the Commissioning for Quality and Innovation payment framework are currently under review for 2011-12. The Government plan to confirm any changes to the framework for 2011-12, including the financial value of schemes and whether there will be any nationally defined goals, later this year.

NHS: Manpower

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* nurses, *(b)* doctors and *(c)* midwives were employed in the NHS on 1 April 2010 and what estimate he has made of the number of each type of staff likely to be so employed on 31 March (i) 2011, (ii) 2012, (iii) 2013 and (iv) 2014. [25353]

Anne Milton: The number of nurses, doctors and midwives employed in the national health service are available from the NHS Information Centre for health and social care who publish the monthly work force statistics. The following tables show full-time equivalent and headcount staff in post as at 31 March 2010.

The precise numbers of nurses required over the next four years will not be known until the new organisations that will underpin the new system have been designed in more detail.

The Department has consulted on how the new organisations should be designed and is analysing responses. Information on how the new organisations should be designed will be announced in due course.

England—March 2010	*Headcount*
Total	1,219,500
Professionally qualified clinical staff	627,593
All HCHS doctors (including locums)	104,144
All HCHS doctors (non-locum)	102,346
Consultants (including Directors of public health)	37,102
Registrars	37,097
Other doctors in training	14,056
Hospital practitioners and clinical assistants	2,282
Other medical and dental staff	12,197
All HCHS doctors (locum)	2,086
Consultants (including Directors of public health)	1,399
Registrars—locum	263
Other doctors in training—locum	134
Hospital practitioners and clinical assistants—locum	55
Other medical and dental staff—locum	258
Total HCHS non-medical staff	1,115,417
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	354,737
Qualified midwives	24,839
Qualified health visitors	10,213
Qualified school nurses	1,489

Note:
Headcount totals are unlikely to equal the sum of components.
Source:
The NHS Information Centre

England—March 2010	*Full-time equivalents (FTE)*
Total	1,080,087
Professionally qualified clinical staff	572,310
All HCHS doctors (including locums)	100,277
All HCHS doctors (non-locum)	98,571
Consultants (including Directors of public health)	35,789
Registrars	37,777
Other doctors in training	14,195
Hospital practitioners and clinical assistants	492
Other medical and dental staff	10,318
All HCHS doctors (locum)	1,706
Consultants (including Directors of public health)	1,189
Registrars—locum	222
Other doctors in training—locum	110
Hospital practitioners and clinical assistants—locum	14
Other medical and dental staff—locum	171
Total HCHS non-medical staff	979,810
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	320,563
Qualified midwives	21,396
Qualified health visitors	8,744
Qualified school nurses	1,237

Source:
The NHS Information Centre

Physiology: Regulation

Dr Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what procedures are in place for *(a)* NHS Trusts and *(b)* members of the public to make complaints about practising clinical physiologists. [24689]

Anne Milton: Clinical physiologists are not statutorily regulated. Employer concerns would therefore be dealt with through internal national health service clinical governance and human resources processes. They may also refer a clinical physiologist to the Registration Council for Clinical Physiology, if they are on the voluntary register. We are currently considering, within the context of the Government's wider health strategy, whether to regulate healthcare scientists, including clinical physiologists, and how this might be done.

Members of the public are able to make a complaint about practising clinical physiologists providing NHS services through the statutory NHS complaints arrangements. In the first instance, the complaint would be made to either the organisation providing the service or the local primary care trust.

Thromboembolism: Health Services

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 1 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 658W, on thromboembolism, what estimate he made of the cost to the public purse of treating patients included in the count of finished consultant episodes with a primary or secondary diagnosis of deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism in each year between 2004-05 and 2008-09. [24697]

Anne Milton: The Department does not collect costs by diagnosis. It collects the costs to national health service providers of providing standard groupings of clinically similar treatments, known as health care resource groups (HRGs), the precise grouping of which may depend on the presence of other diagnosis and intervention codes and patient characteristics in the episode of care.

We are aware that venous thromboembolism events are generally under-reported and pulmonary embolism is significantly under-diagnosed before death. However, the following table shows the costs reported in HRGs for deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolus by NHS providers in each year between 2004-05 and 2008-09.

Costs to the NHS of deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolus 2004-05 to 2008-09

£ million

HRG description	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Deep vein thrombosis	25.4	26.6	25.7	26.0	27.9
Pulmonary embolus	24.7	27.8	35.2	38.3	46.7

Notes:

1. Figures calculated from schedule 4 (NHS Trusts and PCTs combined) of the national schedules of reference costs for the financial years 2004-05 to 2008-09 published at:
www.dh.gov.uk/nhscosting
2. 2004-04 and 2005-06 costs were collected on health care resource group version 3.5 (HRG3.5) and include:
(a) D10 Pulmonary Embolis with complications and comorbidities
(b) D11 Pulmonary Embolis without complications and comorbidities
(c) E20 Deep Vein Thrombosis >69 or with complications and comorbidities
(d) E21 Deep Vein Thrombosis <70 without complications and comorbidities
3. 2006-07 to 2008-09 costs were collected on health care resource group 4 (HRG4) and include:
(a) DZ09A Pulmonary Embolus with major complications and comorbidities
(b) DZ09B Pulmonary Embolus with complications and comorbidities
(c) DZ09C Pulmonary Embolus without complications and comorbidities
(d) EB11Z Deep Vein Thrombosis

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to make venous thromboembolism in the NHS a never event; and if he will make a statement. [24699]

Anne Milton: The Department has proposed an extended list of "never events" and is currently undertaking an open engagement exercise to seek comments on the proposals and to consider suggestions for additional events to include in this list.

A copy of the proposals has already been placed in the Library and is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/publicationsandstatistics/publications/publicationspolicyandguidance/dh_120247

The engagement process will run until 19 November 2010, following which the Government will consider all suggestions for amendments and additions to the "never event" list. We will publish an expanded list of "never events" in due course.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding was allocated to the National Venous Thromboembolism Prevention programme in each of the last five years; and what such funding was allocated to that programme for 2011. [24700]

Anne Milton: The funding allocated to the National Venous Thromboembolism Prevention programme over the last five years was as follows:

Venous Thromboembolism Prevention Strategy

	£
2005-06	n/a
2006-07	n/a
2007-08	93,500
2008-09	125,936
2009-10	192,764
Total	412,200

The national programme did not commence until 2007-08.

Allocations for 2011-12 have not yet been finalised. The prevention strategy depends on clinical and managerial leadership, and is not reliant on the provision of specific funding to the national health service.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to include knowledge of nationally-endorsed venous thromboembolism prevention protocols as a basic patient safety and experience measure in the process of revalidation for doctors. [24701]

Anne Milton: The process of medical revalidation is currently being tested in pilots across a number of health settings. The intention is that it will require the doctor to demonstrate that they are up to date and fit to practise. Revalidation will be a continuing evaluation of a doctor's practice in the place or places in which the doctor works, rather than a point-in-time assessment of a doctor's specific knowledge and skills. It will be based on local systems of appraisal and clinical governance.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to take steps to ensure that venous thromboembolism prevention education is made a core element of undergraduate medical curricula; and if he will make a statement. [24702]

Anne Milton: The General Medical Council is the regulator for all stages of medical training. Venous thromboembolism (VTE) prevention is currently included as an element of the patient safety aspects of curricula at undergraduate, postgraduate and continuing professional education programmes. We are currently working with the Three Professions Group—the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, Royal College of Nursing and the Royal Pharmaceutical Society to ensure that the key issues of patient safety and quality of care relating to hospital acquired VTE, are embedded effectively in clinical practice.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking in response to the review undertaken by the National Confidential Enquiry into Patient Outcome and Death in respect of its findings on the venous thromboembolism risk assessment and prophylaxis received by patients undergoing surgery *(a)* for a fractured neck or femur and *(b)* on the acute abdomen. [24703]

Anne Milton: Since April 2010 it has been mandatory for all adult patients, including those admitted for fractured neck of femur and an acute abdomen, to be risk assessed for venous thromboembolism (VTE) using the clinical criteria of national VTE risk assessment tool, and to be prescribed appropriate prophylaxis based on national clinical guidance.

We would expect this comprehensive approach to VTE risk prevention to have significant impact on reducing the number of adult patients suffering from fractured neck of femur and acute abdomen from acquiring a VTE as a result of their hospital admission.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of venous thromboembolism characterised by *(a)* deep vein thrombosis and *(b)* pulmonary embolism were recorded in patients in NHS psychiatric facilities in each of the last five years. [24707]

Anne Milton: The information requested is not collected by the Department.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether instances of hospital-acquired venous thromboembolism will be classified as emergency hospital readmissions in respect of the proposed policy not to reimburse trusts for additional treatment required during an emergency readmission within 28 days of discharge. [24708]

Anne Milton: The proposed policy is that from 1 April 2011 hospital trusts will not receive further payment for avoidable readmissions within 30 days of discharge. The policy is intended to apply to patients whose emergency readmission would have been preventable by better care either before or after discharge, and there will be some exclusions where readmission is an expected part of planned care. Further details of the policy will be announced later in the year.

Tobacco: Packaging

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department assessed the merits of bringing forward proposals to require plain packaging for cigarettes as an alternative to a ban on tobacco displays. [24670]

Anne Milton: The Government are looking at options around the display of tobacco in shops, recognising the need to take action both to reduce tobacco consumption and to reduce burdens on businesses. No decisions have yet been made. We are also developing our overall approach to tobacco control across a range of issues, which will be set out in the forthcoming public health White Paper.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Business

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his definition is of entrepreneurial culture with reference to page 42 of the White Paper Local growth: realising every place's potential. [25188]

Mr Prisk: Compared to other G7 countries, the building blocks for enterprise in the UK appear strong. Fear of failure is lower, and perception of having the necessary skills to start a business is higher, than any country other than the United States. However, while 47% of people think they have the skills to start a business, just 4% expect to do so in the next three years and the positive headline statistics mask wide variation by region, by gender and by ethnicity.

An entrepreneurial culture is one where people value entrepreneurs; where people have the aspiration, ambitions, skills and confidence to take the initiative and start an enterprise for themselves; where more people start a business or social enterprise.

The enterprise culture referenced in the White Paper aims to create a far more positive and facilitated approach to enterprise for all people in all locations—exactly the kind of attitudes to, and appetite for, enterprise we last saw generated in the 1980s.

Education: Merseyside

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of Aimhigher in Merseyside in improving educational aspiration and attainment; and if he will make a statement. [24540]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 16 November 2010]:* The Aimhigher programme is managed by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and delivered through 42 partnerships of schools, colleges and universities in England. HEFCE ensures effective delivery of the programme through annual monitoring and approval of partnership delivery plans.

Analysis of data shows that, over the period 2004-09, the number of applicants from 11-18 schools in Greater Merseyside receiving intensive Aimhigher support increased more than twice as quickly as those from 11-18 schools receiving less Aimhigher support. Over the same period, accepted applicants from 11-18 schools receiving intensive Aimhigher support rose more than twice as quickly as those from 11-18 schools receiving less Aimhigher support. This analysis is not able to separate out the effect of Aimhigher from that of other factors.

Foreign Investment in UK

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what mechanisms will be in place for the *(a)* administration and *(b)* funding of programmes for inward investment to the regions following the closure of the regional development agencies. [25439]

Mr Prisk: Ministers have announced their intention to abolish the RDAs and transfer responsibility for delivery of inward investment to the national level. As set out in the Local Growth White Paper, UK Trade and Investment is currently developing a framework to deliver inward investment activity. The new framework will be organised around two operational principles. The first being the provision of national, sectoral support (effectively the front line, UK based sales force) and the second the provision of support around the local needs of investors. The people providing this support will be geographically dispersed around England and sited, ideally, near to key clusters of excellence. The full details are still being worked up. The overall budget has not yet been finalised.

Higher Education

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he plans to take to enable universities to attract students and research funding; and if he will make a statement. [25525]

Mr Willetts: Universities in the UK are autonomous and develop their own strategies for competing in the global student market, and are extremely competent at doing so. The world-class reputation that the HE sector enjoys means that the UK attracts more students to study here than any country other than the US. The Government works with and supports the British Council overseas to promote the UK as a study destination.

But Government's most important role is in helping to ensure the HE sector maintains the reputation for excellence around the world which makes a UK degree such a valuable commodity. The changes to HE funding and student finance the Government announced on 3 November are intended to do just that.

Despite enormous pressure on public spending, the overall level of funding for science and research programmes has been protected in cash terms in a ring-fenced budget. The Government's key aims in funding science and research are to support research excellence and international competitiveness, to make best use of our science base and ensure the UK remains an attractive place to conduct research.

Higher Education: Business

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women completed MBAs at universities in each of the last three years. [24567]

Mr Willetts: The numbers of male and female Master of Business Administration (MBA) qualifiers at UK higher education institutions are shown in the following table for the 2007/08 and 2008/09 academic years. Information on MBA qualifiers became available from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) for the first time in 2007/08 and is not available for earlier years. Figures for the 2009/10 academic year will become available from HESA in January 2011.

Male and female MBA qualifiers[1] UK higher education institutions

Academic years 2007/08 and 2008/09

Academic year	*Male*	*Female*
2007/08	5,615	2,365
2008/09	6,100	2,575

[1] Covers qualifiers of all domiciles from full-time and part-time courses.

Note:

Figures are based on a qualifications obtained population and have been rounded to the nearest 5.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency Student Record

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women studied for business degrees at undergraduate level at universities in each of the last three years. [24568]

Mr Willetts: The numbers of male and female undergraduate students enrolled on business and administrative studies courses at UK higher education institutions are shown in the table.

Figures are provided for the 2006/07, 2007/08 and 2008/09 academic years. However, due to an update of the Higher Education Statistics Agency subject coding frame, in the 2007/08 academic year, figures for 2007/08 and 2008/09 are not directly comparable with those for 2006/07. Information for the 2009/10 academic year will become available from the Higher Education Statistics Agency from January 2011.

Male and female undergraduate enrolments[1] in business and administrative studies UK higher education Institutions[2]

Academic years 2006/07, 2007/08 and 2008/09

	2006/07		*2007/08*		*2008/09*	
Principal subject[2]	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*
Business studies	44,925	41,585	44,080	41,390	44,920	42,240
Management studies	22,810	20,665	20,330	18,315	22,445	20,195
Finance	6,430	4,555	7,280	5,305	7,895	5,775
Accounting	14,880	13,225	15,330	13,540	16,005	14,050
Marketing	7,085	9,110	7,240	9,050	7,365	9,635
Human Resource Management	1,575	3,600	1,949	3,685	1,920	4,020
Office skills	160	1,070	215	1,015	125	850
Hospitality, leisure, tourism and transport[3]	3,460	7,845	8,660	13,040	9,910	14,365
Others in Business and Administrative studies	870	450	990	495	1,085	620
Balanced combination—Business and Administrative studies	185	165	5	5	10	20
Total	102,385	102,270	106,070	105,845	111,675	111,780

[1] Covers full-time and part-time enrolments of all domiciles.

[2] HESA updated their subject coding frame for the 2007/08 academic year. Figures for the 2007/08 and 2008/09 academic years are, therefore, not directly comparable with those for 2006/07.

[3] This principal subject covered tourism, transport and travel in the 2006/07 academic year and was expanded to include hospitality and leisure from 2007/08 onwards.

Note:

Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and are rounded to the nearest five, so components may not sum to totals.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record

Higher Education: Dartford

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many young people normally resident in Dartford constituency continued to higher education in the last five years. [24354]

Mr Willetts: The numbers of young (aged under 21) undergraduate entrants from Dartford constituency to UK higher education institutions are shown in the table for the academic years 2004/05 to 2008/09. Figures for the 2009/10 academic year will become available from the Higher Education Statistics Agency in January 2011. Information on entrants to higher education courses at further education colleges is not available at constituency level.

Young[1] undergraduate entrants[2] from Dartford constituency[3]—UK higher education institutions[4], academic years 2004/05 to 2008/09

Academic year	*Entrants*
2004/05	365
2005/06	445
2006/07	445

Young[1] undergraduate entrants[2] from Dartford constituency[3] — UK higher education institutions[4], academic years 2004/05 to 2008/09

Academic year	*Entrants*
2007/08	435
2008/09	485

[1] Aged under 21.
[2] Covers undergraduate entrants to full-time and part-time courses.
[3] The table does not include entrants where the constituency of the student cannot be established due to missing or invalid postcode information.
[4] Excludes the Open University due to inconsistencies in their coding of entrants across the time series.
Note:
Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and are rounded to the nearest five.
Source:
The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record

Higher Education: Disadvantaged

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and *(b)* the London borough of Bexley in receipt of free school meals started a higher education course in each of the last five years. [23690]

Mr Willetts: The latest available information on the numbers of maintained school pupils in Bexley local authority area who were in receipt of free school meals aged 15 and progressed to higher education by age 19 is shown in the following table.

Information is not available at constituency level.

Estimates of the numbers of 15-year-old pupils at maintained schools in Bexley local authority area who were in receipt of free school meals in 2001/02, 2002/03 and 2003/04 and progressed to HE[1] by age 19 in 2005/06, 2006/07 and 2007/08

Academic year	*Number of pupils who were in receipt of FSM aged 15*	*Number progressing to HE by age 19*
2005/06	330	50
2006/07	335	40
2007/08	275	50

FSM = Free School Meals
HE = Higher Education
[1] Covers pupils who progress to higher education courses at English higher education institutions and further education colleges.
Note:
Figures in the table are rounded to the nearest five.
Source:
Matched data from the National Pupil Database, the Higher Education Statistics Agency Student Record and the Individualised Learner Record.

Higher Education: Finance

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding he expects to be provided for higher education institutions through *(a)* student fees, *(b)* Higher Education Funding Council for England T-grant and *(c)* other routes for (i) 2010-11, (ii) 2011-12 and (iii) 2012-13. [24641]

Mr Willetts [*holding answer 17 November 2010*]: Planned funding for tuition fee loans for English domiciled students to institutions in 2010-11 is £2,654 million. This figure is expressed in cash terms. This is not the same as the cost to Government which is measured in resource terms to cover the lifetime cost of the loan.

The Higher Education Funding Council for England's (HEFCE) teaching grant in 2010-11 is £5,107 million. In addition institutions will receive from HEFCE £1,785 million in funding for research. Institutions are also significant beneficiaries of the £3,917 million Science budget.

Figures for next year have not yet been finalised.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of funded higher education places available in each year of the comprehensive spending review; and what methodology he plans to use to determine *(a)* the number of funded higher education places and *(b)* the allocation of such places between institutions in (i) 2012-13, (ii) 2013-14 and (iii) 2014-15. [24656]

Mr Willetts [*holding answer 17 November 2010*]: The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) will determine the number of funded places available and the allocation to each institution in the context of the funding and priorities set for them by the Department, which will be announced for each year in due course.

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to introduce changes to his Department's funding for university courses in foreign languages as a result of the proposed reforms to higher education funding. [24824]

Mr Willetts [*holding answer 18 November 2010*]: We will set out our proposals for the funding of priority subjects, including modern foreign languages in the forthcoming Higher Education White Paper.

Higher Education: Oxfordshire

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the proportion of young people resident in Oxford West and Abingdon constituency who have entered higher education since 2000. [23236]

Mr Willetts: Figures relating to the proportion of young people resident in Oxford West and Abingdon who continued to higher education (HE) are not available. As an alternative, the available information on the proportion of 15-years-old from maintained schools in Oxfordshire local authority who progressed to HE by age 19 is shown in the table.

Estimates of the proportion of 15-year-olds in 2001/02, 2002/03 and 2003/04 from maintained schools in Oxfordshire local authority area who progressed to HE[1] by age 19 in 2005/06, 2006/07 and 2007/08

Academic year	*% who progressed to HE by age 19*
2005/06	31
2006/07	32
2007/08	30

[1] Includes those who progress to Higher Education courses at English Further Education Colleges.
Source:
Matched data from the National Pupil Database, the Higher Education Statistics Agency Student Record and the Individualised Learner Record.

Innovation: Finance

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the average annual budget of each technology innovation centre in each year of the Comprehensive Spending Review period. [24613]

Mr Willetts: Technology Strategy Board analysis and the Hauser review suggest that individual technology and innovation centres would require between £5 million and £10 million per annum.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the average start-up cost of a technology innovation centre. [24614]

Mr Willetts: Funding for the network of elite technology and innovation centres will further develop existing regional development agency funded centres which are excellent, and establish a limited number of new centres.

Start-up costs for existing centres will be negligible as they have already benefited from funding for infrastructure and equipment. Start-up costs for new centres will depend on the technology area on which they are focused, and will be assessed by the Technology Strategy Board in the context of its overall programme of work and objectives for the area of work.

Mobile Phones: Health Hazards

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department issues guidance on the safety of *(a)* handheld mobile telephones and *(b)* mobile telephone masts in respect of radiation. [25215]

Mr Vaizey: Advice on the availability of specific absorption rates (SAR) values from mobile phones was given in the May 2000 report from the Independent Expert Group on Mobile Phones (Stewart Report) and an update was given in the Mobile Phones and Health 2004 Report from the National Radiological Protection Board (NRPB), now merged into the Health Protection Agency. In addition, the UK's four Mobile Network Operators, namely Everything Everywhere (Orange, T-Mobile), 3UK, O2 and Vodafone, have resources within their customer service departments to provide information and advice to users regarding SAR values on handsets. Information about SAR values is available on manufacturers' websites and also on the MMF website

www.mmfai.org

In 2001, International guidelines were adapted for mobile telephones (RF) technologies by industry, government and the then NRPB's Radiation Protection Division (HPA-RPD). Mobile phones and masts are designed to comply with the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP). The series of more than 500 measurements made by the regulator Ofcom (and its predecessor the Radiocommunications Agency) has consistently shown the public exposure around base stations to be well below the guideline levels. This measurement service is available free of charge on the request to Ofcom and the measurements to date are posted on its website

www.ofcom.org.uk

Royal Mail

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effects on Royal Mail *(a)* of regulatory requirements to carry the mail of its commercial competitors and *(b)* the restrictions on the price applied. [25325]

Mr Davey: This is a matter for the independent regulator, Postcomm, who have direct responsibility for regulating the postal services market.

I have therefore asked the chief executive of Postcomm, Tim Brown, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

A copy of Postcomm's reply will be placed in the House of Commons Library in due course.

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effects of regulatory requirements to give advanced notification to commercial competitors on future business changes in Royal Mail. [25326]

Mr Davey: This is a matter for the independent regulator, Postcomm, who have direct responsibility for regulating the postal services market.

I have therefore asked the chief executive of Postcomm, Tim Brown, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

A copy of Postcomm's reply will be placed in the House of Commons Library in due course.

Students: Fees and Charges

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the increase in the cap on tuition fees in 2012 will apply to students applying in 2010-11 for deferred entry to higher education in 2012; and whether he plans to provide transitional support to universities who choose to charge lower fees to such students. [23859]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 12 November 2010]*: The new tuition charges we are proposing for the 2012/13 academic year will apply to all students starting university in that year, including those applying to go to university in 2011/12 who have deferred entry until 2012/13. Universities have been advised to ask students already holding offers for 2012/13 if they wish to be considered for entry in 2011/12.

The institutional funding arrangements that will apply to students entering higher education for the first time in 2012/13 will also cover students who have deferred entry until 2012/13. It is for the Higher Education Funding Council for England to determine grant allocations to individual institutions.

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will assess the merits of a system of forgivable loans for medical students as an alternative to a requirement to pay tuition fees at an increased level. [25216]

Mr Willetts: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 16 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 750W.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to encourage young people from low income inner-city families to attend university; and if he will make a statement. [25524]

Mr Willetts: The Government have set out plans to reform higher education student finance in England which will offer a more generous package of financial support for low income students living in England wishing to attend university in 2012/13. No full-time student will need to contribute to their tuition costs up-front and students from families with incomes of £25,000 or less will be entitled to a more generous full maintenance grant of £3,250 a year. Students starting part-time courses in 2012/13 will be entitled to an up-front loan to meet their tuition costs so long as they are studying at an intensity of at least 33% of a full time course.

Universities or colleges wishing to charge students more than £6,000 a year, up to a ceiling of £9,000, will be expected to draw up an access agreement with the Office for Fair Access in order to widen participation in higher education. In addition, a new £150 million National Scholarships programme will guarantee bright potential students from poor backgrounds extra support to help them meet the costs of going to university.

The Government are also introducing a more progressive repayment structure. Students will only be expected to contribute when they have completed their learning and are earning over £21,000. Repayments will be 9% of income above £21,000 and all outstanding repayments will be written off after 30 years. The result will be that around a quarter of graduates on the lowest incomes will pay less than they would under the current system.

Students: Finance

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the average *(a)* student debt and *(b)* repayment period for student loans following the implementation of his proposed changes to student funding. [23414]

Mr Willetts: The exact levels of debt resulting from these changes will depend on how students and institutions respond to the Government's response to the Browne review on Higher Education Funding.

The repayment period will depend on the size of the debt.

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding arrangements will apply to a student applying for university in 2010 for a deferred place in 2012. [23678]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 12 November 2010]*: The new funding arrangements we are proposing from the 2012/13 academic year would apply to all students taking up their place in 2012/13, including those who have deferred.

Students starting their courses in 2012/13 will be able to access up-front loans to meet their tuition costs and students from families with incomes of £25,000 or less will be entitled to a more generous full maintenance grant of £3,250 a year; those from families with incomes up to around £42,000 will be entitled to a partial grant. There will also be increases in maintenance loans which will mean that most students should have more support for living costs than they do now.

The Government have been working alongside UCAS, Universities UK and SPA (Supporting Professionalism in Admissions) to ensure that all students who have applied for deferred entry in 2012/13 or are thinking about doing so, know how these changes will affect them. Higher education institutions have been advised to ask students already holding offers for 2012/13 if they wish to be considered for entry in 2011/12 rather than 2012/13.

Students: Loans

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the main real interest rate on student loans for new students from 2012-13 will be *(a)* fixed at 2.2 per cent., *(b)* tied to the Treasury discount rate and *(c)* variable for any other reason. [25217]

Mr Willetts: We will introduce a real interest rate on a progressive taper. For graduates earning less than £21,000, the real interest rate will remain at zero. For graduates earning between £21,000 and about £41,000, a real rate of interest will be tapered in to reach a maximum of inflation plus 3%. When graduates are earning more than £41,000, they will be making a full contribution to the costs of the system, but still incurring interest well below normal commercial rates. This will be subject to parliamentary approval.

UK Trade and Investment

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of UK Trade and Investment in the latest period for which figures are available; and how much of that cost was recovered in fees in that period. [25443]

Mr Prisk: UK Trade and Investment's 2009-10 Resource Accounts (which were published on 22 July reference No. HC 3) report total resource expenditure of £356.4 million and recoverable income of £6.0 million, of which £4.7 million relates to fees and charges.

Yorkshire Forward: Assets

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the future of the assets owned by Yorkshire Forward in Bradford following the closure of that agency. [25056]

Mr Prisk: Where assets and liabilities belonging to a regional development agency are not disposed of, either locally or nationally, prior to its abolition, the likelihood is that they will transfer to a residuary body which will continue the process. The form, status or functions that residuary body might have are being considered as part of the closure preparations.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Cheshire, Halton and Warrington Racial Equality Centre: Finance

Graham Evans: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities whether her Department has provided funding for the Cheshire, Halton and Warrington Racial Equality Centre since its creation. [25073]

Lynne Featherstone: The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is an arm's length body; the following is based on information it has provided.

Between the financial year 2007-08, during which the EHRC was formed, to 17 November 2010 inclusive, Cheshire, Halton and Warrington Racial Equality Centre has received grants payments totalling £100,470 from the EHRC.

Departmental Conferences

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how much the Government Equalities Office spent under each budget heading on its stakeholder conference held in March 2010. [22065]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government Equalities Office spent a total of £34,535 on its stakeholder conference. 119 people attended as part of the Government's engagement with partners from across business, the voluntary and public sectors to explain the Equality Bill (now the Equality Act 2010) and to help shape future priorities for action.

The costs were allocated as follows:

Budget category	*Amount (£)*
Conference set up charges	11,262
Meeting room hire	2,500
Day delegate rate	13,800
Equipment hire	6,973
Total	34,535

Government Equalities Office: Finance

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what grants of what monetary value the Government Equalities Office has allocated to each organisation in each of the last five years; and how much it plans to allocate in each such grant to each organisation for each of the next five years. [24204]

Lynne Featherstone: Since its creation on 12 October 2007 the Government Equalities Office has issued grants to the following organisations:

Grant recipient	*Amount (£)*
2007-08[1]	
British Association for Adoption and Fostering	30,825
2008-09	
East Riding of Yorkshire Council	36,074
Ethnic Minority Foundation	6,000
London School of Economics	220,000
Rape Crisis England and Wales	128,000
Survivors Trust	153,350
2009-10	
Civil Service Rainbow Alliance	45,000
British Association for Adoption and Fostering	13,450
Equality South West	41,417
London School of Economics	120,000
Rape Crisis England and Wales	1,085,000
2010-11	
East Riding of Yorkshire Council	6,574
Equality South West	41,550
London School of Economics	91,053

[1] From 12 October 2007

No plans have yet been made for any future allocation for grant funding.

Institute for Fiscal Studies

Robert Halfon: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how much the Government Equalities Office spent on services provided by the Institute for Fiscal Studies in each year since its creation. [23405]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government Equalities Office (GEO) was created on 12 October 2007. GEO spent £1,600 on services provided by the Institute for Fiscal Studies in 2009 and £60 in 2010.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Protect Employees in the Workplace

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what mechanisms are in place to ensure that the Health and Safety Executive has adequate resources to enforce legislation to protect employees in the workplace. [23574]

Chris Grayling: Ensuring good health and safety in the workplace remains vitally important. In the current economic climate, it is appropriate both that HSE should deliver its fair share of the required savings, and that those businesses who create health and safety risks should share more of the cost. Equally, it is important that burdens on low-risk businesses are reduced. We shall be working with HSE to develop such mechanisms over the coming months. It remains for HSE to decide what interventions—including enforcement—will best deliver its policy and operational objectives.

Access to Work Programme

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applications were *(a)* made and *(b)* approved in respect of grants under the Access to Work scheme in 2009-10; and what the monetary value was of such grants made (i) in 2009-10 and (ii) in the period from 1 April to 31 September 2010. [22314]

Maria Miller: 24,340 individuals were helped through Access to Work between April 2010 and June 2010. Information on the number of people helped up to

31 September is not yet available. This information is from the Access to Work Official Statistics, available on the Office for National Statistics Hub. I have also arranged to place a copy in the House of Commons Library. We estimate that more people will be helped in 2010-11 than in the previous year.

Spend figures for directly delivered programmes such as Access to Work are subject to in-year review and adjustment so information on spend in the 2010-11 financial year will not be available until after the end of the financial year.

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the savings likely to be made by restrictions on grants under the Access to Work scheme in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12. [22315]

Maria Miller: Access to Work has the objective of helping disabled people take up or retain paid work, by helping to meet the extra costs faced by disabled people or their employers beyond what is reasonable for the employer to meet. There have not been any restrictions on grants that disabled people are awarded against this objective.

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has made an assessment of the effects on disabled people seeking employment of recent changes to the operation of the Access to Work scheme. [22316]

Maria Miller: Access to Work has the objective of helping disabled people take up or retain paid work, by helping to meet the extra costs faced by disabled people or their employers beyond what is reasonable for the employer to meet. There have not been any changes made which would impede the delivery of this objective.

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when changes to be proposed to the Access to Work scheme were agreed; and what consultation his Department undertook with *(a)* users, *(b)* businesses and *(c)* disability groups on those proposed changes. [22394]

Maria Miller: Changes to the Access to Work programme made by the previous Government are designed to improve take-up among under-represented groups, including people working for small employers, people with mental health conditions and people with learning difficulties. In February 2010 Access to Work officials held a series of focus groups across the country with a number of key external stakeholders, including disability charities, business groups and ethnic minority groups with regard to plans to refocus the Access to Work programme. All parties in attendance valued the service that Access to Work provides but agreed that the programme should be more flexible, and more available to those who are in need of most help and that larger employers could contribute more. These changes were announced in the White Paper 'Building Britain's Recovery' published in December 2009.

The operation of Access to Work is kept under regular review to ensure that the programme is delivered effectively. Access to Work guidance has for many years specified that funding cannot be provided for standard equipment that an employer would need to provide for any employee to do their job. We have in the past allowed Access to Work advisers to form local judgments about what should be regarded as standard equipment and this has led to inconsistent decisions. A revised list of equipment has therefore been included in the Access to Work guidance in order to assist advisers in making operational decisions on each case under consideration for funding and ensure consistency across the country. This list will be updated from time to time to ensure it reflects latest developments. The list of examples provided is not exhaustive and advisers have the discretion to identify other types of equipment as standard for a particular industry or occupation.

The coalition agreement set out our commitment to Access to Work, including plans to reform the programme so disabled people can apply for jobs with funding already secured for any adaptations and equipment they will need and I expect to make an announcement about this shortly.

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what equipment his Department *(a)* classifies as standard provision and *(b)* expects employers to fund under the Access to Work scheme since 1 October 2010. [22395]

Maria Miller: Access to Work guidance has for many years specified that funding cannot be provided for standard equipment that an employer would need to provide for any employee to fulfil their legal obligations. We have in the past allowed Access to Work advisers to form local judgments about what should be regarded as standard equipment and this has led to inconsistent decisions. A revised list of equipment has therefore been included in the Access to Work guidance in order to assist advisers in making operational decisions on each case under consideration for funding and ensure consistency across the country. This list will be updated from time to time to ensure it reflects latest developments. The list of examples provided is not exhaustive and advisers have the discretion to identify other types of equipment as standard for a particular industry or occupation.

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what internal guidance his Department is using on the operation from 1 October 2010 of the Access to Work scheme. [22396]

Maria Miller: Jobcentre Plus provides guidance to staff on the operation of the Access to Work programme and this is updated regularly. Access to Work funds employment support that is over and above that which a business is legally obliged to put in place under 'reasonable adjustments'. Jobcentre Plus are happy to issue a copy of the full Access to Work guidance to anyone who requests it. I have made arrangements to place the latest version of the guidance in the House of Commons Library.

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 11 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 422W, on Access to Work programme, which areas of the Access to Work programme are under review; which are likely to be subject to reform; which are likely to be subject to restrictions; what instructions his Department has given to staff of the programme in relation to the availability of Access to Work *(a)* funds and *(b)* facilities since 1 October 2010; and if he will make a statement. [24983]

Maria Miller: The Government are committed to ensuring disabled people are given the support they need to get a job and remain in employment. We will continue to review welfare to work programmes to ensure the support they provide remains appropriate, effective and value for money.

In line with the coalition agreement we are committed to Access to Work and including plans to reform the programme so disabled people can apply for jobs with funding already secured for any adaptations and equipment they will need. In line with the previous Government's decisions there are also changes in place which support disabled people working for smaller employers, to ensure Access to Work is as efficient and effective as possible.

Jobcentre Plus provides detailed guidance to staff on the operation of the Access to Work programme and this is updated regularly to ensure it reflects the statutory obligations on businesses. Access to Work can only provide support over and above employers' legal obligations to provide reasonable adjustments. I have made arrangements to place the latest version of the guidance in the House of Commons Library.

Children: Maintenance

Miss Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when his Department expects to publish a target for the collection of child maintenance arrears by the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission. [22249]

Maria Miller: The Government are currently considering the role that the child maintenance system can play in their overall commitment to support shared parenting and promote parental responsibility. In this context, and that of the spending review, the Department are in discussion with the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission about a strategy for the collection of arrears, including options for an in-year target.

Housing Benefit

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions under what criteria the additional discretionary housing funding will be allocated to local authorities; and if he will make a statement. [24183]

Steve Webb: We are discussing the 2011-12 allocation of the additional discretionary housing payment funding with the local authority associations. Our discussions will be informed by our detailed analysis of the impact of the changes to local housing allowance rates which we published on 23 July 2010. A copy of that document—'Impacts of Housing Benefit proposals: Changes to the Local Housing Allowance to be introduced in 2011-12'—has been placed in the Library.

The Department for Communities and Local Government has provided an additional £10 million homelessness prevention funding. This has been paid to London local authorities this month. Allocations were based on this Department's analysis of the impacts of the local housing allowance caps within individual London boroughs which is contained in the document mentioned above.

Housing Benefit: Brighton

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will estimate the number of householders in receipt of housing benefit who will have to vacate their home as a result of the planned cap on local housing allowance in *(a)* Brighton Pavilion constituency, *(b)* Brighton and Hove unitary authority and *(c)* nationally, if the level of rents remains unchanged when the cap is implemented; [23797]

(2) if he will assess the ability of householders in receipt of housing benefit who move to less expensive properties when the planned cap on local housing allowance is introduced to afford the train travel to their place of work following the rise in the regulated cap on rail fares from 2012. [23798]

Steve Webb: The information required to carry out these assessments is not available.

On 23 July the Department published a document on "Impacts of Housing Benefit proposals: Changes to the Local Housing Allowance to be introduced in 2011-12". This included estimates of the number of losers and average losses per week for each local authority and each bedroom entitlement category. A copy of the document has been placed in the Library.

Housing Benefit: Rossendale and Darwen

Jake Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was paid in housing benefit to individuals in Rossendale and Darwen constituency for a *(a)* one bedroom, *(b)* two bedroom, *(c)* three bedroom and *(d)* four bedroom property in each year since 1996-97. [24151]

Steve Webb: The information requested is not available.

Housing benefit expenditure is available for the two local authorities covering the constituency, Rossendale, and Blackburn with Darwen, and is shown in the following table.

Housing benefit expenditure for Rossendale, and Blackburn with Darwen local authorities

£ million

	Rossendale	*Blackburn with Darwen*
1996-97	10.8	31.2
1997-98	10.4	32.3
1998-99	10.6	33.2
1999-2000	10.7	33.5
2000-01	10.6	33.9
2001-02	10.7	34.3
2002-03	11.4	37.8
2003-04	11.2	37.0
2004-05	11.4	36.7
2005-06	11.6	37.6
2006-07	11.7	39.1
2007-08	13.7	42.3
2008-09	14.0	43.5

Housing benefit expenditure for Rossendale, and Blackburn with Darwen local authorities

£ million

	*Rossendale	Blackburn with Darwen
2009-10	16.3	49.3

Note:
All figures are consistent with housing benefit expenditure information published on the internet at:
http://research.dwp gov.uk/asd/asd4/h_tables_budget2010.xls
Source:
Local Authority Subsidy returns

Maternity Payments: Adoption

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what representations he has received on extending maternity allowance to adoptive parents; and if he will make a statement. [23207]

Maria Miller: I have received no other representations on extending maternity allowance to adoptive parents.

Statutory adoption pay enables adopters to take a period of leave from work when a new child joins the family. It is paid by employers to employees who satisfy qualifying conditions based on length of employment and a minimum level of earnings. There are around 4,000 adoptions each year and only a very small number do not qualify. Local authorities can consider making payments equivalent to maternity allowance for adopters who are ineligible for statutory adoption pay. Because of this it is not economic to create a specific allowance within the benefit system for this small group.

Social Security Benefits: Disability

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many disabled people will no longer receive contributory employment and support allowance (ESA) annually as a result of his decision to limit to one year the period for which contributory ESA may be paid. [23345]

Maria Miller: The requested information will be available on 29 November 2010 alongside the autumn statement and will be deposited in the Library.

Claimants in the work-related activity group who stop receiving contributory employment and support allowance after 12 months will be able to claim income-related employment and support allowance if eligible. we estimate that 60% will be able to claim some income-related employment and support allowance once their contributory entitlement has ended. There will always be a safety net to support those who have no means of supporting themselves.

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effects of the introduction of fortnightly benefit payments of disability living allowance and incapacity benefit on the propensity of claimants to take out high interest loans; and if he will make a statement. [24075]

Maria Miller: We have not made an assessment of any effects that the introduction of fortnightly benefit payments of disability living allowance and incapacity benefit may have had on the propensity of claimants to take out high interest loans.

Paying benefit fortnightly is intended to give customers more personal responsibility for their finances. Fortnightly payments more closely mirror monthly salary payments than weekly payments, and align better with utility bills, which are generally paid monthly. Fortnightly payments also help to simplify customers' movement between different benefits, as jobseeker's allowance is paid fortnightly.

Customers can receive weekly payments in exceptional circumstances—if the customer has a mental health condition and has found it difficult to budget on a fortnightly basis, for example, or if they have had debt counselling to help them manage significant financial problems. However, weekly payments are generally intended to be on a temporary basis, and most customers should be helped to move towards fortnightly payments.

Social Security Benefits: Prisoners

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what mechanisms are in place to ensure that those released from jail can promptly obtain jobseeker's allowance or employment support allowance payments. [25399]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what mechanisms are in place to ensure those released from prison can obtain benefits promptly. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus has a network of Employment and Benefit Advisers who are based in all of the prisons where the service is needed. As well as supporting customers in identifying and preparing for employment opportunities, they also ensure that before their release, customers receive up to date information about the benefits to which they may be entitled.

In addition to this, all prisoners due to be released who wish to claim Jobseeker's Allowance are able to use the Freshstart process. Freshstart involves pre-arranging a New Jobseeker Interview to claim Jobseeker's Allowance at the prisoner's home Jobcentre Plus office for as soon as possible after they are released. The customer normally has an appointment with a Jobcentre Plus Adviser within three days of leaving prison. This process helps to speed up the receipt of benefit and aims to ensure that the offender engages with the Jobcentre at the earliest opportunity to allow them to gain appropriate support.

Offenders who wish to claim Employment and Support Allowance, are signposted by the Employment and Benefit Adviser to the office of their choice. It is important to note that unlike Jobseeker's Allowance, other benefits do not normally require a face to face interview before benefit can be paid.

In addition, those serving shorter term sentences can also take advantage of the Rapid Reclaim Process. This service is available if a prisoner reclaims benefits within 26 weeks of their last claim and their circumstances have not changed. This process is simpler and shorter.

State Retirement Pensions

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of state pension provision in each year from 2009-10 to 2020-21; what proportion of this cost is attributable to each category of state pension provision in each such year; and if he will make a statement. [23303]

Steve Webb: The available information is in the table:

State pension expenditure, Great Britain and overseas

£ million (cash terms)

Financial year	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*	*2015-16*
Basic state pension	51,370	53,520	56,620	59,010	61,380	64,570	68,090
of which category A	33,300	35,320	38,010	40,400	42,750	45,680	48,910
of which category AB	7,710	7,970	8,320	8,490	8,680	8,990	9,350
of which category ABL	3,330	3,350	3,410	3,410	3,400	3,410	3,430
of which category B	4,510	4,400	4,390	4,300	4,220	4,220	4,240
of which category BL	2,450	2,400	2,390	2,320	2,230	2,170	2,100
of which category D	80	80	90	100	100	110	120
Additional pension	12,700	13,100	14,150	15,090	15,890	16,670	17,570
of which state earnings related pension scheme (SERPS)	11,660	11,830	12,580	13,200	13,680	14,130	14,650
of which state second pension (S2P)	1,040	1,280	1,570	1,890	2,210	2,540	2,920
Graduated retirement benefit	1,820	1,850	1,960	2,060	2,130	2,200	2,260
Increments to basic state pension and graduated retirement benefit	430	420	430	430	420	430	430
Lump sum deferral	500	590	590	600	630	650	670
Adult dependency increases	90	80	60	50	40	30	20
Child dependency increases	0	0	0	0	0	[illegible]	0
Invalidity allowance	70	70	70	80	80	80	90
Age addition	30	30	40	40	40	40	40
Adjustments	-110	-100	-100	-100	-90	-90	-80
Total state pension	66,900	69,560	73,820	77,260	80,520	84,580	89,150

Notes

1. Figures are given in cash terms and rounded to the nearest £10 million. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. Figures after 2015-16 are not available.
3. Annual expenditure on child dependency increases is less than £5 million.
4. Lump sum deferral expenditure refers to payments made to individuals claiming a deferred state pension, and relates to all elements of state pension.
5. Increments to additional pension are included under total additional pension expenditure.
6. Basic state pension expenditure includes non-contributory retirement pension.
7. Category D covers total basic state pension paid to anyone receiving some non- contributory retirement pension.
8. Adjustments cover small additional payments or reductions that occur during the year, including recovery of overpayments.
9. Additional pension includes state second pension (S2P) and state earnings related pension scheme (SERPS) expenditure.

Source:

DWP accounting and statistical data, and June 2010 Budget forecasts

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Pakistan: Overseas Aid

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's humanitarian aid to Pakistan; and if he will make a statement. [24984]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Humanitarian programmes funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) in Pakistan are continually assessed by humanitarian advisers working for DFID to ensure that they remain appropriate, deliver results and are value for money. Fuller internal reviews are scheduled to take place in 2011. To date UK aid has helped approximately 900,000 people access health care services, 620,000 people access clean drinking water and 420,000 people benefit from shelter kits. More details of the UK's humanitarian aid can be found on the Floods Monitor on DFID's website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Where-we-work/Asia-South/Pakistan/Pakistan-Floods-Monitor/

In parallel, I have launched an independent review of the way the UK responds to humanitarian emergencies, chaired by Lord Ashdown, which will consider the Government's response to the floods in Pakistan as a case study.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many regulated procedures were carried out on animals under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 to test the potency of botulinum toxin in 2009. [24958]

Lynne Featherstone: Information is not available on how many regulated procedures were carried out on animals in 2009 under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 to test the potency of botulinum toxin. Figures for numbers of procedures involving pharmaceutical safety/efficacy testing are included in table 9 of "Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals Great Britain 2009". It is not possible from the format of the data returns collected for statistical purposes to identify the number of procedures used in testing a particular substance or product.

The annual publication "Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals Great Britain 2009" was published on 27 July 2010, and is available via the Library of the House and on the Department's website at:

http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/scientific1.html

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what strategy her Department plans to adopt to reduce the number of animals used in experiments. [24959]

Lynne Featherstone: We are currently developing a strategy to deliver the coalition commitment to work to reduce the use of animals in scientific research and will announce our plans in due course. We will be looking for genuine reductions which improve animal welfare.

Animal Experiments: Botulinum Toxin

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the practice of using death as an experimental end point in relation to the use of mice for the potency testing of botulinum toxin in projects licensed under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. [24623]

Lynne Featherstone: The Home Office does not authorise death as the experimental endpoint in the botulinum toxin potency assay. The authorised humane endpoint is appropriate observation and intervention by use of humane euthanasia to limit animal suffering.

Animal Experiments: Primates

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many non-human primates imported into the UK and recorded as F1 generation were from Mauritius in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010. [23881]

Lynne Featherstone: From the information available we estimate that of the non-human primates imported into the United Kingdom during 2009 and 2010 for scientific research, 1,139 and 970 respectively were F1 generation from Mauritius.

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has plans to review the suitability of non-human primate companies in Mauritius that are designated as breeding and supply establishments to supply non-human primates to the UK for the purposes of scientific research. [24829]

Lynne Featherstone: Overseas centres supplying non-human primates to the United Kingdom for the purposes of scientific research are appraised by the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Inspectorate initially when identified as potential new sources of primates by United Kingdom users seeking to acquire animals. Once deemed acceptable, the status of overseas centres is subject to periodic review, typically every two years.

The two Mauritian centres which have supplied animals to the United Kingdom in the past two years are next due for review by 31 January 2011 and 31 August 2011.

Asylum: Deportation

Mr Nuttall: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many failed asylum seekers there were in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010; and how many have subsequently been deported. [23342]

Damian Green: We have interpreted the first question to mean the number of asylum applications in 2008, 2009 and 2010 who were refused asylum, humanitarian protection or discretionary leave.

We have interpreted the second question to mean the number of asylum claimants in 2008, 2009 and 2010 that was subsequently removed.

Published data are not available for 2010. However figures for 2008 and 2009 can be found in Control of Immigration: United Kingdom 2009 which is available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate web site at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Asylum: Glasgow

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effects of asylum seekers moving from Glasgow city council accommodation on requirements for individuals to report at reporting centres or police stations. [23931]

Damian Green: We are very hopeful that the vast majority of service users will be able to remain in their current accommodation. Where this is not possible accommodation will be sourced by alternative providers operating in Glasgow and they will take into account the need for service users to be within a reasonable distance of a reporting centre.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the value was of the UK Border Agency's housing contract with Glasgow city council; and what the value is of contracts with the replacement suppliers. [23935]

Damian Green: The current estimated annual value of the contract held with Glasgow city council is £8.610 million. The estimated current annual values for Glasgow YMCA and Angel Group (Scotland) are for £6.516 million and £2.706 million respectively. The value of the YMCA and Angel Group contracts will increase as and when the Glasgow CC service users transfer to one or both providers but we cannot estimate what the future contract values will be at the present time. The additional costs paid to Glasgow YMCA and/or the Angel Group will be significantly less than the current expenditure to Glasgow city council.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the minimum notice period will be for asylum seekers being moved from accommodation with Glasgow City Council; and whether tenants will have any right of appeal. [23938]

Damian Green: The intention is to give any affected asylum seekers who need to move accommodation minimum notice of between three and five months. However, given the common use of Glasgow Housing Association by both Glasgow city council and YMCA the UK Border Agency hope that the numbers who have to move property will be minimal. Where a move has to take place accommodation is provided on a no choice basis and there is no right of appeal, just as it is on initial dispersal.

Asylum: Social Services

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will publish her Department's assessment of the cost effectiveness and quality of social care services provided by Glasgow city council in respect of asylum seekers based in the city of Glasgow; and if she will make a statement. [25332]

Damian Green: There is no assessment with regards to the quality of social care services provided by Glasgow city council in respect of asylum seekers based in the city of Glasgow. The Secretary of State has no plans to make a statement.

Criminal Records Bureau: Scout Association

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what recent discussions she has had with the Scout Association on the introduction of charges for Criminal Records Bureau checks; and if she will make a statement; [R] [24867]

(2) if she will meet representatives of the Scout Association to discuss the introduction of charges for Criminal Records Bureau checks; and if she will make a statement; [R] [24868]

(3) what recent representations she has received from *(a)* hon. Members, *(b)* Members of the House of Lords and *(c)* members of the public on the introduction of charges for Criminal Records Bureau checks for members of the Scout Association; what response she provided; and if she will make a statement; [R] [24874]

(4) if she will reverse her decision to introduce charges for Criminal Records Bureau checks for members of the Scout Association; and if she will make a statement; [R] [24875]

(5) if she will estimate the likely annual cost to the Scout Association of the payment of charges for Criminal Records Bureau checks; and if she will make a statement. [R] [24876]

Lynne Featherstone: The Home Office wrote to representatives of the Scout Association earlier in November on the issue of charging volunteers for Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks and confirmed that while the ongoing review of the criminal records regime may have an impact on the requirements to undertake CRB checks, the terms of reference will not review the provision of free disclosure certificates for volunteers. The Government remain committed to reducing the barriers to volunteering and free disclosure certificates for volunteers remain Government policy.

There are no plans for Ministers to meet with representatives of the Scout Association at the present time.

Human Trafficking

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average length of sentence given to a person originally charged with offences related to human trafficking and subsequently prosecuted for a lesser charge was in each of the last five years. [21737]

Damian Green *[holding answer 4 November 2010]*: The following figures are provided by the UK Human Trafficking Centre's analysis of the Police National Computer as at 31 August 2010. The averages include consecutive sentences but do not include concurrent and suspended sentences. The figures relate to year of conviction.

Trafficking for Forced Labour (including conspiracy to traffic)

2006	0
2007	Two years
2008	Two years seven months
2009	Two years
2010	Three years

Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation (including in some cases additional offences)

2006	Seven years seven months
2007	Four years three months
2008	Four years nine months
2009	Five years seven months
2010	Four years

Immigrants: Children

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children were detained for immigration purposes *(a)* on each of the last 14 days for which figures are available, *(b)* in each of the last 12 weeks, *(c)* in each of the last 12 months and *(d)* in each of the last five years. [25397]

Damian Green: The requested information is not available as figures on persons entering detention have been published only since the beginning of 2009. The following tables show the number of children who entered detention each month, solely under Immigration Act powers, between January 2009 and June 2010.

Statistics published in the Quarter 2 Control of Immigration publication state that at 30 June 2010 there were five children detained solely under Immigration Act powers. The figure in the publication is rounded to the nearest five to preserve data confidentiality and so represents a number between three and seven.

Information on children detained solely under Immigration Act powers are available in the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom, April-June 2010 in the Library of the House and the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

The next quarterly publication will be released on 25 November 2010 which will show the number of children, detained solely under Immigration Act powers, at 30 September 2010.

Children entering detention held solely under Immigration Act powers, by place of initial detention, by month, (excluding Harwich), January 2009 to June 2010[3,4]

Number of children

	2009												
Place of initial detention	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Total*
Yarl's Wood	90	55	10	45	40	60	75	60	65	65	75	60	695

Children entering detention[1,2,5] held solely under Immigration Act powers, by place of initial detention, by month, (excluding Harwich), January 2009 to June 2010[3,4]

Number of children

	2009												
Place of initial detention	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Total*
Tinsley House	15	5	15	25	25	15	40	20	20	25	25	5	235
Dungavel	15	5	5	5	10	5	15	10	5	10	15	5	100
Oakington Reception Centre	10	10	5	*	*	*	—	—	5	5	*	*	35
Campsfield House	—	*	*	—	—	—	*	*	—	—	—	*	5
Haslar	—	—	*	—	—	—	*	—	—	—	*	—	5
Brook House	—	—	—	—	—	*	—	—	—	—	—	—	*
Harmondsworth	—	—	—	—	*	—	—	—	—	—	—	*	*
Dover Immigration Removal Centre	—	—	—	*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	*
Lindholme	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
UK Border Agency short term holding facilities													
Dover Harbour	*	5	5	5	5	*	5	*	—	5	—	—	30
Colnbrook Short Term	—	*	—	—	—	5	—	*	*	—	—	—	10
Pennine House	—	—	—	—	—	—	*	—	—	*	—	—	*
Total	135	80	40	80	85	85	135	95	90	105	115	75	1,120

Number of children

	2010						
	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Total Jan-Jun*
Yarl's Wood	70	55	55	30	20	5	235
Tinsley House	5	10	5	15	10	20	65
Dungavel	5	5	5	—	5	—	20
Oakington Reception Centre	5	—	—	*	5	—	10
Campsfield House	—	—	*	—	—	—	*
Haslar	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brook House	—	—	—	—	—	*	—
Harmondsworth	—	—	—	—	*	—	*
Dover Immigration Removal Centre	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lindholme	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
UK Border Agency short term holding facilities							
Dover Harbour	10	—	—	—	—	—	10
Colnbrook Short Term	*	—	—	—	—	—	*
Pennine House	—	—	—	—	—	*	*
Total	95	70	65	50	40	25	345

[1] Some detainees may be recorded more than once if, for example, the person has been detained on more than one separate occasion in the time period shown, such as a person who has left detention, but has subsequently been re-detained.

[2] Figures for children will overstate if any applicants aged 18 or over claim to be younger.

[3] Figures rounded to the nearest five (— = 0, * = 1 or 2) and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding. Figures exclude persons recorded as entering Harwich Short Term Holding Facility, police cells and Prison Service establishments, those recorded as detained under both criminal and immigration powers and their dependants.

[4] Figures include dependants

[5] Management information.

Jimmy Mubenga

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what response she has given to the family of Jimmy Mubenga to the letter delivered to her Department on 12 November 2010; and if she will make a statement. [24694]

Damian Green *[holding answer 17 November 2010]:* My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary received a letter on 12 November 2010 from a number of individuals calling for the family of Jimmy Mubenga to be granted indefinite leave to remain and for an inquiry into the process for removing non-compliant detainees from the UK. The contents of the letter are under consideration and a response will be sent to the authors of the letter in due course.

I am not able to comment on the immigration status of the Mubenga family in public or the circumstances surrounding the death of Mr Mubenga given the investigations which are underway by the police and prisons and probation ombudsman. However, both the UK Border Agency and G4S are co-operating fully with both investigations.

Vetting: Standards

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 1 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 499W, on the Criminal Records Bureau, on how many occasions in respect of enhanced disclosures received in 2010 which took over 28 days to process the processing time included time out with customers. [23648]

Lynne Featherstone: The following table details the total number and percentage of Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks that were despatched after 28 days for the period 1 January 2010 to 30 September 2010. This table now includes the total number of checks that were out with the customer and the percentage over 28 days that required customer contact.

				With customer contact	
Form received date	*Total enhanced receipts*	*Despatched after 28 days*	*% over 28 days*	*Over 28 days*	*% over 28 days*
2010					
January	282,738	98,285	34.8	8,876	9.0
February	352,462	130,406	37.0	11,053	8.5
March	411,374	174,498	42.4	13,043	7.5
April	323,130	127,577	39.5	11,438	9.0
May	345,044	117,253	34.0	12,724	10.9
June	388,810	124,515	32.0	13,369	10.7
July	362,762	115,853	31.9	14,944	12.9
August	259,184	73,406	28.3	8,750	11.9
September	339,617	92,094	27.1	9,629	10.5
Total	2,725,504	1,053,887	38.7	103,826	9.9

Visas

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) visas or equivalent were issued in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [24642]

Damian Green *[holding answer 17 November 2010]*: Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) visas were introduced on 30 June 2008 and replaced the former Business Person visas. The number of such visas issued in each of the five years 2005 to 2010 (January-June) is shown in the following table:

Entrepreneur/Business visas issued

	Number
2005	42
2006	31
2007	36
2008	92
2009	164
2010 (January to June)	106

Wickham Research Laboratories: Animal Experiments

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 23 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 232W, on Wickham Research Laboratories: animal experiments, when she expects to be in a position to *(a)* consider the findings of the review and *(b)* publish the review. [24658]

Lynne Featherstone: I have received the Home Office Inspectorate's review report and I am considering its findings. I expect to announce the outcome of the review and publish the report shortly.

Youth Justice: Greater London

Mr Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding her Department has allocated for youth crime provision in London in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and what estimate she made of the amount of such funding allocated in respect of young people aged *(a)* 12 years and under, *(b)* between 13 and 17 years and *(c)* between 18 and 24 years in 2009-10. [24630]

James Brokenshire: Between 2008-11, 13 boroughs in London (listed as shown) have received youth crime prevention funding from the Home Office, Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and Department for Education (DfE) under the Youth Crime Action Plan to tackle offending by young people aged under 18. Each of these local authorities received:

£65,000 in 2008-09,

£350,000 in 2009-10, and;

£350,000 in 2010-11

In 2010-11, the Home Office is separately providing £700,000 allocated between 16 London Community Safety Partnerships (listed as shown) to support them in working to tackle violence committed by and against young people aged 13 to 24.

The Ministry of Justice has provided the following amounts to London Youth Offending Teams over the last five years:

	£
2009-10	24,428,567
2008-09	23,572,365
2007-08	21,311,756
2006-07	19,983,897
2005-06	17,118,846

These figures include funding from both the Home Office and the Department for Education but cannot be separated out due to disproportionate cost.

It is not possible to provide separate figures for different age categories of young people beyond the broad distinctions set out above.

A. 13 Boroughs who have received Youth Crime Action Plan funding

Barking and Dagenham
Camden
Croydon
Greenwich
Hackney
Hammersmith and Fulham
Haringey
Islington
Lambeth
Lewisham
Newham
Southwark
Tower Hamlets

B. Home Office funding to London Community Safety Partnerships for work to tackle serious youth violence

Brent
Enfield
Hackney
Haringey
Islington
Newham
Tower Hamlets
Waltham Forest
Croydon
Ealing
Greenwich
Lambeth
Lewisham
Southwark
Wandsworth
Westminster

TREASURY

Foreign Workers

Dr Poulter: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the level of *(a)* income earned, *(b)* income tax paid and *(c)* benefits claimed by non-EU migrants in the UK in the most recent tax year. [24718]

Mr Gauke: The information is not available as the UK's tax, tax credit and benefit systems do not capture the necessary details of nationality and immigration status.

Non-EU migrants in the UK are generally not entitled to income-related and non-contributory social security benefits or to the child and working tax credits because they are subject to immigration controls which preclude access to public funds. This follows long-standing Government policy.

Green Investment Bank

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he intends to launch the Green Investment Bank; and what funding will be made available to it. [24858]

Mr Prisk: I have been asked to reply.

Further design and testing work are being undertaken to ensure the Green Investment Bank (GIB) is effective in mobilising additional private sector investment into green infrastructure projects. All decisions on the GIB's business and operating model is subject to the Government's tests of effectiveness, affordability and transparency.

Working Tax Credit

Kate Green: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of tax credit claimants were sent renewal reminder notices in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010. [24399]

Mr Gauke: Around 47% of tax credits claimants who were required to make an annual declaration for 2008-09 and renew their claim for 2009-10 were sent a reminder letter. Reminder letters were not issued in 2010 although tax credits customers who are required to make a declaration and renew their claims by the second specified date of 31 January 2011 and have not already done so will be sent reminders in January 2011.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Peace Negotiations

Mr Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether it is his policy that an essential step for a negotiated settlement in Afghanistan is that al-Qaeda should not be allowed a presence in the country. [25198]

Alistair Burt: President Karzai has made clear that the conditions for a reconciliation process are to renounce violence, respect the Afghan Constitution and cut ties with al-Qaeda. We fully support these conditions and the Afghan-led process.

Aung San Suu Kyi

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has had discussions with Aung San Suu Kyi since her release from house arrest. [25295]

Mr Jeremy Browne: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister spoke to Aung San Suu Kyi on 15 November to congratulate her on her release and convey the UK's solidarity and support for her stand on democracy and human rights in Burma. Our ambassador in Rangoon has met Aung San Suu Kyi twice since her release, on 14 and 17 November. The UK will continue to listen to her views and discuss with her how we can best support her efforts to promote democracy and respect for human rights in Burma.

BBC

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent meetings *(a)* officials and *(b)* special advisers in his Department have had with the Director-General of the BBC; and whether pensions were discussed at those meetings. [25017]

Mr Jeremy Browne: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs met the Director-General of the British Broadcasting Corporation on 20 October 2010. Officials and special advisers were also present.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the transfer of the funding of the BBC World Service to the licence fee in 2014-15.

There have been no separate meetings by officials or special advisers with the Director-General of the British Broadcasting Corporation.

Burma: Political Prisoners

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will discuss with the Burmese government the date of the release of the political prisoners held in Burmese prisons. [24951]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We remain deeply concerned about the continued imprisonment of over 2,200 political prisoners in Burma. Their immediate release remains one of the international community's long standing demands. The Government have helped to secure tough statements in the UN and from the Group of Eight (G8) and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) leaders calling for the immediate and unconditional release of all prisoners of conscience. We will continue to press the Burmese regime on this issue, to lobby regional countries with influence and to raise the matter in the UN's human rights bodies.

Burma: Thailand

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the *(a)* Thai and *(b)* Burmese government on migrant workers who have crossed the border into Thailand since the Burmese elections. [25475]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We have not received any specific reports of migrant workers crossing the Thai-Burma border since elections on 7 November 2010. Recent reports have concerned refugee flows into Thailand as a result of a resumption of conflict between the Burmese army and ethnic militia in border areas. We understand that the majority of refugees have now returned home.

Cyprus: EU Trade

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the proposed EU regulation for direct trade with the Turkish Cypriot community. [25469]

Mr Lidington: The UK supports improving the economic situation of the Turkish Cypriot community through both financial aid and trade liberalisation. At this stage we encourage both sides to focus on reaching a settlement, which will bring prosperity to all Cypriots.

Departmental Pay

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was paid to officials in his Department and its non-departmental public bodies in bonuses and other payments in addition to salary in each year since 1997; how many officials received such payments; and what the monetary value was of the largest 20 payments made in each such year. [18767]

Alistair Burt: For details of payments made in addition to salary I refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 18 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 903-04W.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has two types of non-consolidated, variable performance pay schemes, both of which are focussed on rewarding high levels of performance. These types of payment are an integral element of the reward package for staff, have to be re-earned each year and do not add to future pay bill costs (eg pensions).

The FCO paid a total of £7,457,502 in non-consolidated, variable, performance related pay in 2009-10. This represents 2.6% of the total pay bill for UK based staff. 5,604 staff received a payment. The largest 20 payments were £15,000 (x 1 individual), £14,000 (x 3), £13,000 (x 3), £12,500 (x 25).

	Total paid (£)	*Recipients*
2008-09	7,597,836	4,712
2007-08	6,748,152	4,871
2006-07	6,553,288	6,076
2005-06	5,989,100	5,097
2004-05	5,765,800	5,094
2003-04	5,567,100	—
2002-03	4,027,100	5,085
2001-02	2,771,800	4,753

Details of amounts and number of recipients prior to 2001-02, and the number of recipients in 2003-04 can be obtained only at disproportionate cost as could a breakdown of the 20 largest payments in the years 2001-02 to 2008-09.

The information for non-departmental public bodies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Postal Services

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the monetary value was of contracts between his Department and *(a)* Post Office Ltd and *(b)* Royal Mail in (i) 1997-98 and (ii) each year since 2004-05. [24926]

Alistair Burt: Although the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and FCO Services currently use the services of Royal Mail there have been no contracts between the FCO, FCO Services and the Post Office Ltd and Royal Mail for the periods mentioned.

Departmental Reviews

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what departmental policy reviews his Department has undertaken since 6 May 2010; on what date each such review *(a)* was announced and *(b)* is expected to publish its findings; what estimate he has made of the cost of each such review; who has been appointed to lead each such review; to what remuneration each review leader is entitled; how many (i) full-time equivalent civil servants and (ii) seconded staff are working on each such review; from which organisations such staff have been seconded; and how much on average such seconded staff will be paid for their work on the review. [21882]

Alistair Burt: Since 6 May 2010, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has been closely engaged in the cross-Government Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) which will have an important impact on many areas of FCO activity. FCO work in support of the SDSR has taken place within existing resources. In addition to its contribution to this major exercise, the FCO has also conducted or is in the process of conducting the following reviews of specific policies for which it is responsible:

a. Review of Government Policy on Private Military and Security Companies (PMSCs)

After an internal review by Ministers of 16 September announcing the Government's policy on PMSCs. The Minister responsible, the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs the hon. Member for North West Norfolk (Mr Bellingham), undertook this work as part of his normal duties. The review was conducted by three FCO staff already working on PMSC policy, and no additional resource was used to conduct it.

b. Review of Overseas Territories Policy

This is a review occasioned by the change of government, and appears in the FCO's Business Plan that was published on 8 November 2010 with a deadline for completion of July 2011. It is being carried out by five staff in the Overseas Territories Directorate in the FCO, and has so far incurred no additional costs.

c. Review of Policy towards the Commonwealth

The FCO has undertaken this review internally, and completed it in August 2010. The Government expects to make an announcement to Parliament in the near future on the outcome. The review was conducted by three FCO staff already working on Commonwealth policy, and no additional resource was used to conduct it.

European Union

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what additional resources have been allocated to EU institutions by the UK since May 2010; and what powers have been transferred from the UK to the EU since that date. [23700]

Mr Lidington: The UK has transferred no additional resources or powers to the EU since May 2010.

Hamas

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Palestinian Authority counterpart on levels of support for the Hamas political movement within Palestinian society. [24579]

Alistair Burt: Our consulate general in Jerusalem is in regular dialogue with the Palestinian Authority on a wide range of issues, including elections and internal political dynamics.

Iran: Human Rights

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations at UN level to establish a monitoring mechanism to report on human rights in Iran to the *(a)* General Assembly and *(b)* Human Rights Commission. [25471]

Alistair Burt: I refer the hon. Member to the response given by the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Taunton Deane (Mr Browne) on 16 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 662W.

Iran: Nuclear Power

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the state of the Iranian nuclear programme since September 2010; and if he will make a statement. [24879]

Alistair Burt: We continue to be greatly concerned about Iran's nuclear programme. The Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has issued a number of reports on Iran, all making clear that Iran has shown no sign of suspending its enrichment related activities as required by six UN Security Council resolutions. The figures in his September 2010 report showed Iran had produced 2803 kg of low enriched uranium since the start of operations in February 2007, and that Iran had also produced a total of 22 kg of uranium enriched to nearly 20%, a significant step towards weapons grade enrichment.

Iran: Sanctions

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the recently-introduced sanctions against Iran; and if he will make a statement. [R] [24878]

Alistair Burt: It is too early for a full assessment. However, early indications are that sanctions and other political pressure are having an impact. We urge Iran to accept our repeated invitation to talks, in order to reach an agreement that satisfies the international community's justified concerns about Iran's nuclear programme.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his international counterparts on the effectiveness of the Iranian sanctions programme; and if he will make a statement. [24998]

Alistair Burt: I have discussed Iran with many of my counterparts, including on the importance of using sanctions to get Iran to engage with the EU 3+3 on its nuclear programme. In particular, I have pressed those whose countries have not imposed sanctions as tough as those adopted by the EU to move in that direction.

Iran: Terrorism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of Iranian links with militants in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan since September 2010; and if he will make a statement. [24880]

Alistair Burt: I refer the hon. Member to my response of 9 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 231-232W.

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government is taking to prevent weapons from Iran reaching terrorist organisations in the Middle East. [25304]

Alistair Burt: We have longstanding and serious concerns about Iranian support to militia in the Middle East. We regularly raise this issue with senior political leaders in the region. I raised arms transfers to Hizbollah with Prime Minister Hariri during my visit to Lebanon earlier this year and underlined the importance of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1701 which calls for the disarmament of all armed groups. We will continue to push for full implementation of all such UNSCRs and give our full support to the UN sanctions committees pursuing and investigating sanctions violations.

Israel: Human Rights

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to his EU counterparts to request that Israel complies with the provisions of the EU-Israel Association Agreement relating to human rights; and that no further moves be made to develop closer political and economic ties with Israel until the terms of the agreement have been satisfied. [25167]

Alistair Burt: We are in regular discussions with EU partners on a number of issues related to the Middle East peace process including the EU-Israel Association Agreement.

The UK has worked hard, with support from other member states, to ensure that the EU has regular discussions about human rights in Israel. This is in line with the human rights elements of the EU-Israel Association Agreement.

The EU has made clear that any progress on this agreement must be seen in the context of progress in the wider peace process.

Pakistan: Capital Punishment

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to his Pakistan counterpart on the death sentence given to Mrs Asia Bibi. [24950]

Alistair Burt: The UK opposes the death penalty in all circumstances as a matter of principle. In Pakistan, alongside EU colleagues, we regularly raise our support for its abolition and work with civil society to encourage reform.

Our high commission in Islamabad has raised the case of Mrs Asia Bibi with the Punjab Government and we will continue to do so at a senior level. Specific representations to the Government of Pakistan are being made by the head of the EU delegation, with UK support, in Islamabad.

Taiwan: British Nationals Abroad

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British nationals have applied for a British passport in Taiwan in each of the last five years. [25516]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not issue British passports in Taiwan. Applicants for British passports from Taiwan send their applications to the Regional Passport Processing Centre in Hong Kong. We do not separate out data according to country of residence at the time of application and to provide such information retrospectively would incur disproportionate cost.

Western Sahara: Violence

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made representations to the Moroccan Government on the recent attacks on Saharawi protestors; and if he will make a statement. [24767]

Alistair Burt: Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials have met officials from the Moroccan embassy to discuss the recent violence in Western Sahara. The UK is using its position as President of the United Nations Security Council to convene an informal meeting of the Security Council to discuss the reports of violence in Western Sahara and has called for an assessment of the current situation from the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Western Sahara (MINURSO) forces. I will also raise Western Sahara with my counterparts when I visit Morocco later this year.

We are saddened by reports of the loss of life. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office released a statement on 11 November expressing concern at reports of violence and calling for a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution that provides for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara.

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to send a representative to El Aauin in Western Sahara as a result of the recent violent incidents. [24768]

Alistair Burt: We have no plans to send a representative to Western Sahara at present. However, we visit Western Sahara regularly, as well as keeping abreast of developments through United Nations peacekeeping mission in Western Sahara (MINURSO) and other contacts in the region. We would of course expect to send a representative to the territory as part of our regular visits to the region in the future.

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of Morocco on Saharawi reported missing following the recent violence in the Western Sahara. [25355]

Alistair Burt: We have not had any discussions with the Moroccan Government on people reported missing following the recent violence in Western Sahara. We are concerned by reports of violence and loss of life at the camps outside Gdiem Izik and Layounne and are following the situation closely. Our ambassador at Rabat is in close touch with the Moroccan authorities at a senior level and has urged transparency.

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he *(a)* last met and *(b)* next plans to meet the Moroccan Government to discuss violence in the Western Sahara. [25356]

Alistair Burt: Officials in both London and Rabat have discussed recent violence in Western Sahara with their Moroccan counterparts. The UK also chaired a meeting of the UN Security Council on 16 November to gather further information about recent events from Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Atul Khare, and UN Envoy to Western Sahara Ambassador Christopher Ross. I will discuss this issue with the Moroccan authorities when I visit Morocco later this year.

Ministerial Correction

Thursday 11 November 2010

WORK AND PENSIONS

Welfare Reform

The following is an extract from the oral statement on welfare reform given by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the right hon. Member for Chingford and Woodford Green (Mr Duncan Smith) on 11 October 2010.

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr Iain Duncan Smith): We are at a critical point, with 5 million people on out-of-work benefits, 2 million working-age people claiming incapacity benefit, of whom 900,000—just under 1 million—have been claiming for an entire decade, and a system that has left Britain with the highest rate of jobless households in Europe.

[Official Report, 11 October 2010, Vol. 516, c. 34.]

Letter of correction from Mr Duncan Smith:

An error has been identified in the first sentence of the fifth paragraph of the oral statement of 11 October.

The correct sentence should have been:

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr Iain Duncan Smith): We are at a critical point, with 5 million people on out-of-work benefits, 2 million working-age people claiming incapacity benefit, of whom 900,000—just under 1 million—have been claiming for an entire decade, and a system that has left Britain with one of the highest rates of jobless households in Europe's major economies.

Ministerial Corrections

Friday 12 November 2010

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Accommodation

Mr Whittingdale: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission, which posts in the House of Commons Service entitle the holder to accommodation *(a)* in the gift of the House Service and *(b)* paid for from the public purse; and what the address is of each property owned by the House Service which is put at the disposal of such staff. [20072]

[Official Report, 1 November 2010, Vol. 517, c. 495W.]

Letter of correction from Sir Stuart Bell:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Maldon (Mr Whittingdale) on 1 November 2010. The full answer given was as follows:

Sir Stuart Bell: The following positions in the House entitle the holder to accommodation: Clerk of the House, Serjeant at Arms, Speaker's Secretary, Head Office Keeper and two Senior Office Keepers. Sleeping facilities are provided for the Deputy Serjeant at Arms, Assistant Serjeant at Arms, Clerk Assistant, Clerk of Committees and Clerk of Legislation, reflecting their particular need to be available on the parliamentary estate over prolonged periods and at unpredictable times. The addresses of the accommodation are: 2 Parliament street, 3 Parliament street, 2a Canon row, 2b Canon row, 4 Canon row, 102 Rochester row and 22 John Islip street. The sleeping facilities are also used by other staff when there is a need to do so.

The list of officials who are provided with sleeping facilities should have included the Assistant Secretary to the Speaker and the Speaker's Trainbearer, and the addresses of that accommodation should have included the Palace of Westminster.

Mr Knight: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission, how many staff in the House of Commons Service are provided with *(a)* overnight and *(b)* residential accommodation and facilities other than a worktime office; what positions are held by such persons; what accommodation is provided; and for what reason in each case. [22509]

[Official Report, 9 November 2010, Vol. 518, c. 220-221W.]

Letter of correction from Sir Stuart Bell:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the right hon. Member for East Yorkshire (Mr Knight) on 9 November 2010. The full answer given was as follows:

Sir Stuart Bell: The House of Commons provides single-room hostel-style sleeping accommodation in John Islip street, for up to 17 staff who undertake occasional late duties. Staff including doorkeepers and administrative staff are eligible to use the sleeping accommodation provided they satisfy the following guidelines:

> They are expected to be on duty to support the House or its Committees after 10.30 pm and they live outside the 25 mile taxi radius.
>
> They are on duty until the rising of the House if this is expected to be after 7.30 pm and they are required for duty before 8.30 am the following day.
>
> There is a departmental business reason and they have prior approval.

In addition, sleeping facilities on the estate are provided for the Deputy Serjeant at Arms, Assistant Serjeant at Arms, Clerk Assistant, Clerk of Committees, Clerk of Legislation, Assistant Secretary to the Speaker and the Speaker's Trainbearer. This reflects the requirement that they are present on the parliamentary estate over prolonged periods and at unpredictable times.

Six staff are entitled to residential accommodation so that they can be available for duty at short notice. They are the Clerk of the House, Serjeant at Arms, Speaker's Secretary, Head Office Keeper and two Senior Office Keepers. The addresses of the accommodation are: 2 Parliament street, 3 Parliament street, 2a Canon row, 2b Canon row, 4 Canon row and a flat at 102 Rochester row.

The answer should have included the information that, if the hostel-style accommodation is insufficient for demand, additional accommodation is provided in a budget hotel chain; and that a small number of doorkeepers have protected rights to overnight accommodation when the House is sitting, provided at the Union Jack Club (which is not owned by the House), but that this has been phased out for more recent recruits.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Beak Trimming (Laying Hens)

The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mr James Paice): I am today laying an amendment to The Mutilations (Permitted Procedures) (England) 2007 before Parliament, principally to extend the use of routine beak trimming of laying hens beyond 31 December 2010, while restricting the method used to the infra-red technique only. I know this is a significant issue for the House, as demonstrated by the large number of signatures for my right hon. Friend the Member for Worthing West (Peter Bottomley) (EDM 260). I therefore want to set out the background behind these amending regulations and explain this Government's approach to working towards a future ban on beak trimming.

[Official Report, 8 November 2010, Vol. 518, c. 2-4WS.]

Letter of correction from Mr Paice:

Some small errors have been identified in the written ministerial statement submitted on 8 November 2010 on the subject of the beak trimming of laying hens. The correct version of the statement is as follows. The amended text has been italicised.

The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mr James Paice): I am today laying an amendment to The Mutilations (Permitted Procedures) (England) 2007 before Parliament, principally to extend the use of routine beak trimming of laying hens beyond 31 December 2010, while restricting the method used to the infra-red technique only. I know this is a significant issue for the House, as demonstrated by the large number of signatures for my right hon. Friend the Member for Worthing West (Peter Bottomley) (EDM 260). I therefore want to set out the background behind these amending regulations and explain this Government's *determination to work closely with the objective of making a ban on beak trimming possible in 2016*.

Currently, the UK makes use of a derogation in the EU Council Directive 99/74/EC on the welfare of laying hens, which allows for beak trimming of laying hens that are less than 10 days old if carried out by qualified staff. The procedure is only permitted to prevent feather pecking and cannibalism. The Mutilations (Permitted Procedures) (England) Regulations 2007 implements this derogation but only allows routine beak trimming to be carried out until 31 December 2010, after which beak trimming of laying hens would be banned. The ban was put in place when the laying hens directive was implemented in the UK in 2002, allowing eight years to develop a strategy to manage birds without the need to beak trim. At the same time, the previous Government established the Beak Trimming Action Group, comprising representatives from industry, welfare groups, DEFRA, and scientific and veterinary professions. The group's task was to devise an action plan which would work towards the ban on beak trimming by the end of 2010—looking at changes to management practices or selecting birds that are less prone to feather pecking. However, progress in the control of injurious pecking under commercial conditions in England has not been sufficient to implement a ban on beak trimming without causing a significant risk to animal welfare. In the meantime, a new infra-red technique was developed and is now used to beak trim birds commercially, as an alternative to hot blading. Currently, the infra-red technique is the method used on 95% of all beak trimmed laying hens.

The Farm Animal Welfare Council reviewed the evidence in 2007 and 2009. On both occasions it recommended that, until an alternative means of controlling injurious pecking in laying hens can be developed, the proposed ban on beak trimming should not be introduced, but should be deferred until it can be demonstrated reliably under commercial conditions that laying hens can be managed without beak trimming, without a greater risk to their welfare than that caused by beak trimming itself. The Farm Animal Welfare Council recommended that infra-red beak treatment should be the only method used routinely, as the evidence indicated that it does not induce chronic pain.

While the Government's long-term goal is to ban routine beak trimming, the Farm Animal Welfare Council's advice represents a sensible and pragmatic approach in the circumstances we have inherited and is in the interests of laying hen welfare. A ban on beak trimming for laying hens at this current time would result in significant welfare problems through outbreaks of feather pecking and cannibalism. The Government consider it is therefore right that the legislation needs to be amended to remove the impending ban on routine beak trimming, which would otherwise come into force on 1 January 2011.

However, I want to emphasise that the Government see the proposed removal of the ban as very much an interim solution. The previous Government's consultation on proposals to amend the legislation, did not propose any date to review the policy or any date for a future ban. This Government have taken heed of the strength of feeling on this issue and decided to adopt the Farm Animal Welfare Council's recommendation of setting a review date of 2015. We will assess the output of this work, *with the objective of* banning routine beak trimming in 2016. We are committed to working with the Beak Trimming Action Group to find solutions to this very complex issue and to establish an action plan, which will include the following key milestones leading up to a full review of beak trimming policy in 2015:

November 2010—Industry to be asked to carry out study tours to those European countries, such as Austria, Finland, Sweden, Norway and Switzerland where beak trimming is not carried out.

January 2011—The Beak Trimming Action Group (comprising key representatives from industry, welfare groups, scientific and veterinary professions) will be reconvened and I will attend the first meeting which will establish an action plan to develop a strategy to manage birds without the need to beak trim.

Spring 2011—Industry to feedback the experience of other countries to a meeting of the Beak Trimming Action Group.

Summer 2011—Beak Trimming Action Group to begin to consider the outputs of a three year intervention study by Bristol university, funded by the Tubney trust, on strategies to reduce the need for beak trimming with a view to ending the practice by 2016.

1 January 2012—the EU-wide ban on the keeping of laying hens in conventional cages comes into force. As the impact of feather pecking is greatest in systems of management which do not house birds in cages, the risk to the welfare of laying hens from injurious pecking is likely to increase after this time.

2012-2014—Hold regular meetings of the Beak Trimming Action Group to gather data from producers on their experiences in managing flocks over two cycles in alternative systems, which will be fed into the review.

2015—Review established to assess the achievements on the elimination of beak trimming to date. The review will advise whether a ban on routine beak trimming of laying hens will achieve the maximum welfare outcome, with a view to reinstating the ban in 2016.

2016—Provisional date for the ban on routine beak trimming of laying hens.

Ministerial Correction

Wednesday 17 November 2010

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

UK Film Council: Portland

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer to Question 15057, if he will direct the accounting officer of his Department to examine the appropriateness of the UK Film Council's contract with Portland. [17701]

[Official Report, 4 November 2010, Vol. 517, c. 912W.]

Letter of correction from Mr Ed Vaizey:

An error has been identified in the response given to the hon. Member for Burton (Andrew Griffiths) on 4 November 2010. It has been noted that the reference to APPC has been set out incorrectly.

The original answer was as follows:

Mr Vaizey: The Department has been assured by the UK Film Council (UKFC) that its contract with Portland was appropriate and consistent with Cabinet Office rules.

Portland has advised that it did not carry out any public affairs work for the UKFC, but did assist with media support, and for the purpose of transparency, listed the UKFC on its Advocate Policy and Public Affairs Consulting (APPC) client list.

In light of this clarification, there are no plans for the Department's Accounting Officer to investigate further the appropriateness of the UK Film Council's contract with Portland.

The correct answer should have been:

Mr Vaizey: The Department has been assured by the UK Film Council (UKFC) that its contract with Portland was appropriate and consistent with Cabinet Office rules.

Portland has advised that it did not carry out any public affairs work for the UKFC, but did assist with media support, and for the purpose of transparency, listed the UKFC on its Association of Professional Political Consultants (APPC) client list.

In light of this clarification, there are no plans for the Department's Accounting Officer to investigate further the appropriateness of the UK Film Council's contract with Portland.

Ministerial Correction

Thursday 18 November 2010

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments: Primates

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department *(a)* how many and *(b)* what species of non-human primates imported for the purposes of scientific research were categorised as (i) captive-born (or F1 generation) and (ii) captive-bred (F2+ generation) in (A) 2009 and (B) 2010. [22045]

[Official Report, 4 November 2010, Vol. 517, c. 876-77W.]

Letter of correction from Lynne Featherstone:

Errors have been identified in the response given to the hon. Member for Crawley (Henry Smith) on 4 November 2010. In the table referring to figures from 2009, the number '100' should read '85', the number '1,257' should read '1,139' and the number '958' should read '932'.

The answer was as follows:

Lynne Featherstone: Although the information currently submitted to the Home Office following the acquisition of each batch of non-human primates provides evidence that animals have been born in captivity, there is currently no requirement for the records to indicate whether animals are F1 or F2+. However, from the information available we estimate the respective totals to be as detailed in the following table.

Numbers of imported captive-born (or F1 generation) and captive-bred (F2+ generation) non-human primates

	F1	*F2*
2009		
Common marmoset	0	100
Rhesus macaque	0	44
Cynomolgus macaque	1,257	958
2010 (reported to date)		
Common marmoset	0	0
Rhesus macaque	0	40
Cynomolgus macaque	970	545

The answer should have been:

Lynne Featherstone: Although the information currently submitted to the Home Office following the acquisition of each batch of non-human primates provides evidence that animals have been born in captivity, there is currently no requirement for the records to indicate whether animals are F1 or F2+. However, from the information available we estimate the respective totals to be as detailed in the following table.

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Common marmoset	0	85
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